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THE TIMES

MEDIA

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40p

Waite arrives back to work for freedom of all Middle East's innocent captives

Kidnappers 'to close hostage file forever'

By MICHAEL BINYON AND RICHARD BEESTON

TERRY Waite and Thomas Sutherland were reunited with their families yesterday as the wheels driving the Middle East hostage bandwagon to its terminus gathered pace.

Iranian radio yesterday added its weight to the kidnappers' prediction that all Western captives should be free by the end of the year, interpreting the release of Mr Waite and Dr Sutherland as a sign that the kidnapping groups had decided to close the hostage file forever.

Within moments of taking his first steps on home soil for nearly five years, Mr Waite was repeating his jailers' promise that the three Americans still held in Beirut would be released this month, adding: "I trust that Hezbollah, those who hold those men, will honour that commitment." He also said the kidnappers were hopeful that two German hostages would be freed by the end of the year.

The Church of England envoy went on to denounce hostage taking as wrong, self-defeating and against civilised standards of behaviour during a forceful 15-minute speech in which he pledged to work unceasingly to bring freedom to all innocent captives and

repeated the veiled appeal he had issued in Damascus for Israel to release Arabs detained in south Lebanon.

"We have lived in these last years through the appalling sufferings of the people of Lebanon," he said. "We have been in the midst of shelling. We have seen people die and be killed in the most brutal ways. We know that the people of Lebanon have suffered greatly and those from whom I have just come can be assured that we in the church will not rest until all are free and there is justice and peace brought to people who deserve a better deal."

Mr Waite's compassionate but determined address in a hangar at RAF Lyneham came as Iranian radio denounced Israeli "intransigence" over the 350 Arabs it is holding, including the Muslim cleric Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, and as Israel in turn expressed fears that its missing men would be forgotten in the euphoria of the Westerners' release.

Israel is seeking the return of the navigator Ron Arad, four members of a tank crew and the bodies of two infantrymen missing in Lebanon. Only Captain Arad is believed to be alive. Until Islamic Jihad's decision this week to free Mr Waite and Dr Sutherland, previous releases this



Joyful reunion: Terry Waite is greeted at RAF Lyneham by Lord Runcie who, as Archbishop of Canterbury, sent him on his Middle East mission

Desperate Gorbachev recalls an old friend

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

year have been co-ordinated with Israel, which has freed 66 Lebanese prisoners in return for confirmation that the two infantrymen were dead and the return of the body of a seventh serviceman. This time, however, Israel was cut out of the three-way plan.

"While the present UN secretary-general remains in office we are confident that the matter of our missing soldiers will receive the highest priority," one Israeli official said. "But we are worried that after he leaves his post at the end of the year, the issue of the Israeli missing in action will be neglected by the world, especially if the Western hostages are freed."

The Israeli concern surfaced as Germany gave the first indications that it might be ready to do a deal that would secure the release of the air workers Heinrich Streubig and Thomas Kempner, who were both kidnapped in May 1989. Their cases have been kept separate from the global exchange being negotiated by the UN and have instead been linked with the fate of Muhammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi, who are in German jails for terrorist offences.

Their brother, Abdul-Hadi Hamadi, is Islamic Jihad's second-in-command and besides being close relatives of one of the group's leaders, the two imprisoned men are regarded as heroes for their part in the 1985 TWA hijacking. Continued on page 24, col 4

Scots owe nearly £1bn in unpaid poll tax bills

By KERRY GILL

ALMOST £1 billion is owed in unpaid poll tax since its introduction in Scotland three years ago, enough to fund about half the annual Scottish education budget.

With only four months left of the third year in which the tax has been levied in Scotland, figures from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities show that people are now even less likely to pay than in the first two years of the tax.

The amount owed by non-payers has meant that councils face the prospect of cutting budgets and imposing hundreds of redundancies to try to ease the burden on those who do pay. Even so, Strathclyde, the biggest region covering about half the Scottish population, may be forced to increase bills by up to 30 per cent next year.

Judging by the rate of this year's non-payment, which now stands at more than £550 million out of the £825 million billed, the debt for 1991-92 is expected to be larger than in the two previous years, in spite of strenuous attempts to persuade people to pay up.

Tax due to be paid since April 1989 now exceeds the total amount billed for this financial year, and although non-payment levels reached 22 per cent last year, at the height of the "can pay, won't pay" campaign run by the Scottish National party, more than 70 per cent of this year's bills are unpaid.

Strathclyde said that up to 750 jobs could be lost as part of a £30 million cut in next year's budget. The two hardest hit departments will be education and social work. Ian Henley, the council's deputy finance director, said that all departments had been told there would be cutbacks because of arrears. The region is still owed £62.2 million from 1989-90, £120 million from last year, and more than £280 million in the current financial year.

The authority has been forced to write off more than 10 per cent of the debt for 1989-90 and almost 17 per cent of last year's debt as people increasingly failed to pay their poll tax. The anti-poll tax federation is keeping up its campaign against payment.

Last week about a dozen protesters were arrested in Greenock when demonstrating against a poinding, the process in which sheriff officers assess a debtor's goods for possible sale to meet money owing. The biggest problem for councils, however, is that many people have become lackadaisical about paying because they know the community tax is to be replaced by the council tax. There is no ultimate sanction of prison for debtors in Scotland.

David Chynoweth, Lothian region's finance director, said yesterday that sheriff officers had visited 78,000 homes to try to recover debts and 300 people had had goods poinded prior to a warrant sale. By the end of last month the region was owed more than £75 million from the first two

Continued on page 24, col 2

North 'supplied tracking device'

By DAVID WAITS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

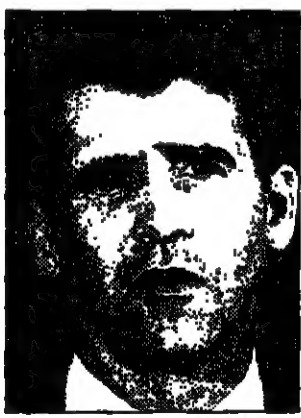
TERRY Waite was given a radio tracking device before he left on a 1985 mission to Beirut, it was claimed yesterday.

The device was offered as a means of protection because he feared that he would be kidnapped by a rival group from the one that he was dealing with, according to the television programme *Panorama* screened last night. Mr Waite saw it as a means of protecting himself but, in reality, it was the centrepiece of a Reagan administration plan to get the hostages out.

The offer was made at a meeting between Mr Waite and Oliver North, the US colonel at the centre of the Iran-Contra affair, at the Penta Hotel in London. It was one of 20 such meetings between the two men - more than have previously been revealed - when both were engaged in attempts to free hostages in the Middle East.

A former US administration official confirmed that the White House had hoped that the device would lead them to where the hostages were being held. The decision to use Mr Waite as "cover" for the American operation was taken in the summer of 1985, according to the programme.

Michael Ledeen, a former consultant to the National Security Council, said: "He provided cover for North's operation." *Panorama*, which said that it had access to Colonel North's notes, said



North: 'spoke of hiding transmitter in a Bible'

that they appear to confirm his monitoring of Mr Waite's movements. One entry reads: "Get Waite to Beirut ASAP." In the United States, CBS Television told viewers last night: "Terry Waite was supposed to be an honest broker negotiating for the release of the hostages in Lebanon. But in fact, Waite worked secretly with Oliver North, the Reagan administration's point-man in the arms sales to Iran."

"North told other members of the administration that he had given Waite a radio transmitter in an effort to learn the location of the hostages... At various times, North spoke of having the transmitter implanted under Waite's skin or hiding it in a Bible which Waite could leave with the hostages."

Weapons sales, page 3

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Abuse trial dropped after girl's evidence

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE sex abuse trial based on the claims of a girl that she was forced to take part in satanic rituals collapsed yesterday when the prosecution offered no further evidence against five defendants.

Michael Lawson, for the prosecution, dropped the case after the defence cross-examined a girl aged ten, the younger of two alleged victims of a satanic sex ring. Mr Lawson told Mr Justice Turner he could no longer rely on the girl's evidence.

The girl had claimed that she and her sister - now aged 14 - were subjected to sexual assaults during frequent sa-

tanic rituals in Epping Forest, Essex. She had claimed that 15 to 20 men would sexually assault her during different satanic gatherings and that she saw at least three babies and three children murdered in sacrifices either on a stone or in her mother's bedroom.

The judge said the prosecution decision was "entirely proper and consistent with code of practice which binds prosecuting counsel". The girl's evidence was "so uncertain, inconsistent and improbable" it would not be right to seek a conviction.

Case collapses, page 2

Looted Soviet treasures found at Soviet base

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

FOR years Soviet guides showing visitors round the imperial Catherine Palace in St Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) pointed to the space where the fabled Amber Room once stood, describing the desolate emptiness as proof of Nazi infamy. The priceless decorative marvels of the room had been stolen by marauding German troops in the second world war, and their whereabouts were unknown. Now Soviet military intelligence appears to have unearthed the treasure at a Soviet military base in eastern Germany.

Soviet officials told *Rabochaya Tribuna*, the conservative daily, that the Amber Room, presented by Frederick I

of Prussia as a token of friendship and admiration for the reforms of Tsar Peter the Great, had been found at a base where military chiefs of the Warsaw Pact used to meet.

As it happens, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, arrives in Bonn tomorrow. With Soviet historians revealing more and more details of the astonishing cultural board removed from defeated Germany by the Red Army and stored in secret vaults, Mr Yeltsin will come under pressure to make good the clause in the 1990 Soviet-German friendship treaty that provides for a general return of looted art, which in Soviet hands is thought to include works by Titian, Tintoretto, El Greco, Delacroix, Monet, Manet, Cézanne.

Degas and Renoir. Echoing a proposal by the fiercely nationalistic Soviet culture minister, Nikolai Gubenko, the Russian leader said agreement might be reached on setting up a panel that would investigate wartime looting by both sides and prepare for a swap on a "basis of parity". German officials are worried that this "parity" is seen by some officials in Moscow in financial terms with the possible implication that Germany should pay for the return of any artworks that are not "covered" by transfers in the other direction.

The Amber Room discovery is described as the "sensational of the century" while its removal to Germany in 1945 is termed the "burglary of the millennium".



Peter the Great: Amber Room marked his reforms

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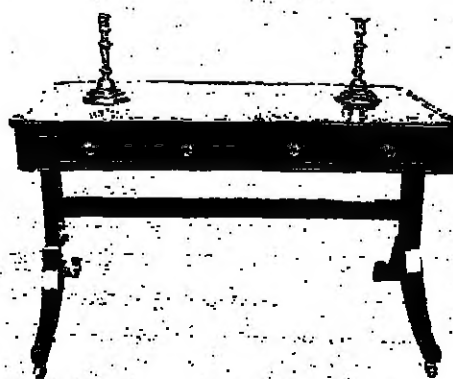
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سكنا من الان

Election day looms where income tax is 15% and poll tax unknown



In session: the Isle of Man's elected House of Keys

POLITICS is conducted a little differently on the Isle of Man. Journalists calling to interview a government minister often find an empty house, doors unlocked and a message inviting them to make themselves at home with a cup of coffee while they await his arrival.

Constituents wishing to sound off find the addresses and home telephone numbers of every member of the government listed prominently at the front of their local directory.

David North, former seaman, finance company executive, public relations man, journalist and shopkeeper, won his seat in the House of Keys, the island's parliament, in a by-election in 1988 and is now agriculture,

Voters on the Isle of Man take part in their own general election tomorrow. Peter Davenport has been to take the island's political temperature

fisheries and forestry minister. The job carries a salary of about £20,000 and not a few drawbacks.

"It's not uncommon for some farmer, annoyed at a government decision, to come in angry from the early morning milking and pick up the telephone to tell me his views in no uncertain terms," said Mr North, who faces three rivals for his seat in the Middle constituency.

Even the system of voting seems to add to the almost Ruritanian quality of some aspects of life on the island. For the first time the method

of single-transferable-voting-with-plumping - which means electors can "plump" for just one candidate without having to mark others in descending order - is being used. It might all seem enough to put off any sane person but 73 candidates are standing for the 24 seats tomorrow.

The island may be only 45 minutes by plane across the Irish Sea from Manchester, but it enjoys a much greater political separation. Manx-English, John Major and the poll tax do not figure in the campaign: its government will not be at the summit, it has its

own chief minister and it has

sunk with low domestic rates. The island has its own political agenda. It has changed radically over the past two decades from being dependent on farming, fishing and tourism to a major offshore financial centre. Beneficial tax regimes have attracted more than 30,000 registered companies. Between 1985 and 1990 the island's gross national product grew from £242 million to £447 million, with the finance industry accounting for 30 per cent of the total.

Unemployment is about 3 per cent, low by mainland standards but rising locally. The standard rate of income tax is 15 per cent with companies paying a maximum of 20 per cent, much lower than in many European

countries. External economic factors have slowed recent growth, but in the policy report for 1991 Miles Walker, chief minister, says there is "no reason to believe that the island will not resume its rapid economic development at some point in the medium term".

However, if Mr Walker wishes to pursue his vision, he first has to secure re-election to his Rushen constituency and then be re-appointed chief minister by the new Tynwald at its first sitting next month. Only then will the electorate discover the policies of the next parliament.

There is no official opposition and virtually no party politics with most members of the assembly calling themselves independent. No single issue is likely to decide the

election's outcome: successful candidates will owe much to their personal esteem.

There has been much debate over the island's law outlawing homosexuality, an offence still technically punishable by life imprisonment and which puts it out of line with European and UK legislation. Those in favour of a change say that if Tynwald does not alter its statutes then the UK government will force it to do so, creating a constitutional crisis.

The number of outsiders allowed to settle on the island is another issue. Newcomers, at present unrestricted, are forced to buy houses. There is also concern that efforts to ensure the continued growth of the financial sector should have benefits for all residents and not just a select few.

Black magic case collapses over young girl's evidence

By LIN JENKINS

THE case alleging sexual assault of two girls during black magic rituals by their parents, godparents and a family friend collapsed at the Central Criminal Court in London yesterday when the prosecution claimed the legal system was not equipped to deal with such cases.

Michael Lawson, for the prosecution, told the judge that he was offering no further evidence, adding that he could no longer rely on the evidence of one of the victims, a 10-year-old girl, who was being cross-examined during her fourth day in the witness box.

The ending of the case highlights the problems of relying on the testimony of

young children in a courtroom and fuels calls for their evidence to be presented on video or conducted in an adjacent room by counsel in normal dress, and not to have to meet the strict criteria of consistency required when adults give evidence.

As the five defendants left the court after being formally found not guilty of the 20 charges including rape, indecent assault, buggery and conspiracy to commit indecent assault, dating back to 1982, the children's mother said she would be seeking the return of her daughters. The godmother of the 10-year-old said she was considering seeking compensation and

described the prosecution as "utter crass stupidity".

The girl, who clutched a pink rabbit while giving evidence, was shielded by screens as she recounted in a whisper how she was repeatedly raped by her father and thought it was normal as it happened so often. "I just assumed it happened to all girls," she had told the court.

Mr Lawson had told the jury that the girl and her older sister, now aged 14, had been repeatedly taken from their home in east London to a clearing in Epping Forest, where devil worshippers danced around the children as they were forced to drink the blood of a rabbit. Similar

rituals had taken place at their home, he has alleged. Mr Justice Turner said the decision not to continue was "entirely proper and consistent with the code of practice which binds prosecuting counsel" and that it would not be right to proceed when the girl's evidence was "so uncertain, inconsistent and improbable".

He thanked the jury members for their attention in "what at the outset must have seemed an horrific and very worrying case. It remains a worrying case for quite different reasons, which might have to be addressed at a different time."

Mr Lawson said one consideration had been the disclosure that the girl had discussed the matters with her sister before telling her grandmother. He added that he had to operate under the current system of examination and cross-examination of witnesses. He said he intended no criticism of the cross-examination, but it had become increasingly and distressingly obvious that the process under which the prosecution had to conduct the case was inappropriate. It would, he said, be unrealistic to proceed solely on those charges involving the older sister.

"We can protect the witnesses physically from some of the difficulties, and we sought to do that in this case with the equipment we have," he said. "We cannot prevent the public requirement that allegations of criminal behaviour be investigated and exposed, nor can we prevent defendants who are accused of such behaviour of testing the evidence laid against them."

"It may be that this case is one example of a need for radical reappraisal of the way in which criminal trials in relation to this type of allegation are conducted." He added that they could be conducted as best they could be within the system. "The question is perhaps more fundamental as to whether it is the right system."

Afterwards, the children's father said the girls had "got it all from video".



Unruffled: the Princess of Wales passes an armed RUC officer on her way to open a centre for the handicapped in Armagh yesterday. Earlier, she visited a Barnardo's home in Belfast and met charity officials at Hillsborough Castle

Court says state can be sued

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Court of Justice has ruled that individuals can sue the state for losses caused by its failure to implement community directives.

Lawyers say the ruling, made in an Italian case, has far-reaching significance. It also puts in a new light the EC Commission's recent accusation that the British government has failed to comply with a directive that requires an environmental assessment to be made of development projects. The Court of Justice

in Luxembourg yesterday held that national courts must ensure protection of rights for individuals to sue for consequential losses.

The case was brought by 30 employees who sued the Italian government for money they were owed by their insolvent employers. Under a 1980 directive, member states should have provided for a compensation scheme, but Italy had failed to do so by the 1983 deadline.

directive intended to create a right had not been complied with, the way was now open for individuals to sue for consequential losses.

The case was brought by 30 employees who sued the Italian government for money they were owed by their insolvent employers. Under a 1980 directive, member states should have provided for a compensation scheme, but Italy had failed to do so by the 1983 deadline.

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Customers give gas top marks

British Gas comes first for service and value for money, and the Post Office for efficiency and helpfulness, but British Rail is bottom for everything, according to a consumer poll out yesterday.

Audience Selection interviewed a representative sample of 1,042 adults earlier this month to measure satisfaction with public utilities. A quarter of respondents nominated British Gas as giving best service while 30 per cent thought British Gas offered best value.

The Post Office scored 24 per cent for service and 20 per cent for value, but was chosen by 23 per cent as having the most efficient and helpful staff. British Gas came second in that category, with 21 per cent.

BT was chosen by 18 per cent for service, 12 per cent for efficiency and helpfulness, but only 7 per cent for value. Local electricity companies were favoured by 7 to 9 per cent on each count, and local bus companies ranged from 4 to 7 per cent.

The least popular utilities were water companies and British Rail, which were nominated by 2 per cent each for service and efficiency. While 8 per cent thought the water companies gave best value for money, only 1 per cent thought that was provided by British Rail.

London link to IRA bomber

Scotland Yard detectives said last night they believed the man named by the IRA as the bomber killed at St Albans last week was born and brought up in maintained Britain and left London for Belfast four years ago.

Frankie Ryan, aged 25, would have been the ideal active service member for the IRA because he would easily blend into somewhere like London without rousing the slightest suspicion and already knew mainland Britain very well. He had a minor criminal record for assault but nothing to show any IRA connection. The dead man had lived in London and worked as a building site labourer before going to Northern Ireland. He is thought to have returned in the last couple of months with other members of the active service unit.

Editor fined

Donald Treford, editor of the *Observer*, was fined £150 and had his licence endorsed with ten points yesterday for being drunk in charge of a car. A police breathalyser found Treford, aged 53, to be twice the legal alcohol limit at the wheel of his Jaguar. Horseferry Road magistrates in London accepted that he was not driving the car. Treford said that he had moved into the driver's seat to wave on other cars when his daughter Sally went into Victoria station to check train times.

Scrolls on show

A two-volume book containing 1,750 photographs of the Dead Sea Scrolls never seen by most academics will be published next month by the Biblical Archaeology Society. The work has been assembled from photographs which "first began coming two years ago from an anonymous benefactor", the book's editors, Professors Robert Eisenman and James M. Robinson, said in New York.

Hand frozen

A factory worker was recovering in hospital yesterday after his hand was trapped and frozen in a meat-packing machine. Lee Bassett, aged 19, of Wake, near Exeter, had a skin graft after losing a finger as his hand was pulled from the machine. A pathologist at Bristol Royal Infirmary said that the hand might be permanently damaged by exposure to liquid nitrogen.

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Nanny found guilty of injuring babies

A NANNY was yesterday found guilty of fracturing the skulls of two babies, both aged one month, while in her care. Carol Withers, aged 28, swayed in the dock when a jury at Wood Green crown court in north London convicted her of maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm on Simon Hogan between October 5 and 8, 1989, and on Jade Ferrari on January 25 last year.

Withers, of Lydney, Gloucester, was cleared of a more serious charge relating to both babies, which alleged she caused them grievous bodily harm with intent to do so. Two charges alleging cruelty were withdrawn half way through the two-week trial.

The court was told that Withers, who at the time of the incidents came from North Walsham, Norfolk, failed to qualify as a maternity nurse at Chiltern College. She began work with the Hogan family in north London in the autumn of 1989 and a few weeks later, after finishing her stay with them, police questioned her when Simon was discovered to have a fractured skull.

Police believe she assaulted the child but Withers denied that. However, she could not explain how Simon received an injury to his head while in her care. Then the following January, while working for the Ferrari family at Golders

Green, northwest London, she had "an accident" with baby Jade. Withers claimed she was playing with the baby when she slipped from her shoulder on to her head.

Doctors who examined the x-rays of both babies said that Jade could not have sustained her injury from a mere fall and Simon certainly could not have received a fractured skull by rolling his head on to a set

of plastic keys as he lay in his cot, as was suggested by Withers. Ann Cotcher, for Withers, said: "She is well aware that the court must view these two separate incidents in the most serious manner."

Judge Roger Cooke bailed Withers until January 10 for medical, psychiatric and social enquiry reports. She was ordered to live at her address and report to Lydney police every Friday.

Withers claimed baby slipped on to her head

Space team studies long-range health

By KERRY GILL

THE benefits of medical treatment by remote control may soon stretch from the most far-flung island communities to the boundaries of space as a result of research commissioned by the European Space Agency.

The agency has asked the Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology in Aberdeen, more used to survival training for the North Sea, to develop a "tele-medicine" system allowing doctors to perform remote diagnosis and treatment. The work could lead to astronauts being able to carry out urgent treatment on themselves or companions in space.

Remote health care is already being used in the oil industry to allow paramedics on North Sea rigs to treat patients after radio contact with doctors onshore. Professor Nelson Norman, the institute's medical director, said the research and development could also help distant island communities, where a district nurse could link up with a doctor by television to diagnose and treat a patient.

The institute has already trained people in desert areas and the Antarctic to use similar procedures. The work commissioned by the

space agency will result in the concept being extended to space, using vastly more sophisticated diagnostic techniques. "Hopefully, it will lead to the people out there at the sharp end being an extension of the minds and hands of the specialists," said Professor Norman, who gave the example of an astronaut suffering from toothache. A dentist might be able to talk him through carrying out treatment on himself.

Half the research and development will go into training people such as astronauts. They would be shown what to look for and how to help the doctor to make the correct diagnosis. The other half of the research will be into the development of communications systems.

At present the set-up consists of two rooms. In the first the "remote people" are linked by video to specialists in an adjoining room. The specialists practise their techniques and see what shortcomings there are in the system, as well as looking at the directions in which the research should go: for example, whether a pulse rate ought to be read by the patient's companion or by sending electronic data to the medical specialist.



Gates: denied he knew of illegal arms sales

Iran-Contra affair led abductors to target churchman

By NIGEL WEST

IT IS close to midnight on Saturday, and a cargo configured Boeing 707 is seeking permission to land at Nicosia airport in Cyprus. The German pilot declares that his flight from Ben Gurion airport is destined for Turkey but is running low on fuel. As the plane taxis to the control tower a radio message from air traffic control in Ankara reveals that earlier the same evening Turkish authorities had declined to let it land because the crew had refused to specify the cargo carried. Suspecting Middle East drug smugglers the police are called and the two pilots produce documents to show that their plane is owned by the Santa Lucia Corporation and that it has been chartered in Frankfurt. The police inspect the hold and count 18 Hawk anti-aircraft missiles. A few bear a Star

of David. With no adequate explanation of the Hawks' final destination, the pilots are put in a cell and held for interrogation. In Washington it is late evening, and the news that one of the CIA's aircraft has been impounded in Nicosia sends panic through the skeleton staff on duty at Langley. A flash top priority message is sent to the CIA's station chief in the Cypriot capital. Roused from his sleep he drives to the American Embassy and empties his personal safe of the \$40,000 in cash kept for just such an emergency. A few hours later the German pilots are released from custody and the 707 is refuelled and sent on its way, supposedly back to Tel Aviv. As it approaches the coast on Sunday morning the aircraft suddenly dives beneath the radar and flies low to the Iranian city of Tabriz. When senate investigators

discovered this extraordinary story they heard from Robert Gates, the CIA's deputy director, that he had no knowledge of the illegal transaction, the sale of embargoed weapons ostensibly by Israel to Iran. It had happened on November 23, 1985, and had been part of an arms-for-hostages deal negotiated by Colonel Oliver North.

This incident, and another in which a similar consignment of missiles was found on an El Al flight in Lisbon, directly implicated CIA personnel in the Iran-Contra scandal that was eventually to lead to Terry Waite's kidnapping.

When questioned under oath by the Senate's Tower commission, all those involved denied knowledge of what had happened — including director of operations Clair E. George, a veteran CIA

officer who had served in Greece and Beirut, who swore he had not been consulted. So did Mr Gates and the then Vice-President, George Bush, leaving the CIA's director, William Casey, and Colonel North to take the blame. Casey subsequently died of a brain tumour before he could be cross-examined, but Colonel North was convicted of misleading Congress. The verdict was subsequently overturned.

The CIA's objective throughout was to secure the release of their station chief in Beirut, William Buckley, who had been seized in March 1984. Mr Waite's role had been to provide a plausible reason for Mr Buckley's anticipated release in return for the weapons. As for Mr Waite, who had been involved in the front line of the exchange of hostages for weapons, he was left to fend for himself with

Hezbollah. The unpalatable truth was that it had not been patient, behind-the-scenes diplomacy by the Archbishop's envoy that had achieved freedom for Benjamin Weir and his companions: it had been the sale, at an extortionately high cash price, of anti-tank weapons destined to be used by the Iranians against President Saddam Hussein's forces.

Rejecting pleas from his American contacts and the British Foreign Office, Mr Waite publicly denied any knowledge of the arms deals and made a final journey to the Lebanon. Until August this year the matter rested there, but then Alan M. Fiers Jr, once Chief of the CIA's Central American Task Force, agreed to co-operate with federal prosecutors in return for leniency on a charge of obstructing Congress. His damning testimony alleges

that Mr George, the CIA official, lied in his evidence to the Senate enquiry. He has now been indicted and he expects to be offered a similar bargain: compromise someone further up the chain of command and receive a light sentence for a guilty plea to a reduced charge of perjury.

But there are only three people he can implicate: Robert Gates, confirmed as the president's choice to succeed William Webster in the CIA's top job, Tom Newton, CIA deputy director for operations who had been chief of the Near East division in the critical period, and the president.

Nigel West (the pen name of Rupert Allason, MP) has written many books on espionage. His *Seven Spies Who Changed the World*, which recounts the Buckley case, was published by Secker and Warburg last month.

Islamic hardliners realise impotence of kidnap weapon

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

AS the foreign hostage saga finally comes to an end, one question preoccupies fundamentalist Islamic circles in Beirut: did the seven-year tactic of kidnapping civilians to achieve political goals have any success at all?

During the first stages of hostage-taking in Lebanon, the declared purpose was to force the freeing from Kuwaiti jails of 17 Muslim militants charged with terrorism. Other kidnapping groups initially demanded the release of 400 Arab prisoners in Israel and the withdrawal of the Jewish state from south Lebanon and the territories it occupies.

But as the years went by, with more hostages taken and others spending more years in captivity, the demands evolved and developed until they centred on a single goal: the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

One Iranian diplomat admitted that the Islamic republic used the hostage issue to purchase arms from the United States at the height of its isolation and during the fiercest stages of its war against Iraq in the Iran-Contra affair. He said that Tehran also used the captives to win back billions of dollars frozen in France since 1980 and to

restore diplomatic ties with both Paris and London. When the war with Iraq finally dragged to an end, Iran was left with a devastated infrastructure and a battered population. After the death of Ayatollah Khomeini, a more sober school of thought inside the country argued for the need to open up to the West.

"We then began to look for ways to upgrade our image inside Iran, and found the hostages issue a suitable vehicle to lead us to that goal," the diplomat said. When President Rafsanjani came to power, the idea of solving the hostages issue appealed to his pragmatic mind despite opposition from the hardliners.

President Rafsanjani, with the help of his old friend in Lebanon, the equally pragmatic Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, devised a plan to release the hostages at almost any cost. The key was that the United Nations should work out the details.

In a recent interview Sheikh Fadlallah said that "the hostages issue had been used up to its fullest extent". He added that "the captives have become a burden on their cap-

tors and on Iran as a state". He developed the idea of exchanging the hostages for Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel at the notorious Khiam jail inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

For a while, this exchange worked. But yesterday Tehran radio announced that the process to free foreign hostages would proceed unhindered even if Israel failed to release Lebanese prisoners from Khiam, as had been the agreement. The announcement left bitter feelings among the fundamentalists, who felt betrayed and neglected.

"The Iranians have used us to achieve their own goals," a relative of one hostage-taker said. "My relatives' family is now living underground, always moving with false passports. They have become obsessed with security."

But Riad Murrad, aged 54, a resident of Beirut's southern suburb, lashed out against the hostage-takers and their umbrella group Hezbollah. "They destroyed their country, humiliated us as a Shia Muslim community, and turned us all into terrorists," he said.

"We can get no visas anywhere, we get humiliated at airports around the world, and our country was left to plunge into devastating wars just because a bunch of thugs decided to serve the interests of Iran," he added.

One committed Hezbollah member maintained, however, that the kidnapping of foreigners had had a positive side. "It has forced the world to pay some attention to our cause. Although we received bad publicity, we nevertheless managed to get our message through. It is the evidence in the world condemnation of Israel's detention of our brother in Khiam."

The most accurate evaluation of the kidnapping weapon came on Monday from the kidnappers themselves, in the striking words used as they set Terry Waite free: "We are sorry we have kidnapped you. We know now that this thing was wrong. The detention of hostages does not lead to any constructive purpose."

Tehran Times, page 15
Daily, page 18
Letters, page 19

Envoy makes beeline to greet Runcie

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LORD Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, last night described his reunion with Terry Waite on board the aircraft which brought the freed hostage from Cyprus. He said Mr Waite made a path through other members of the welcome party inside the plane after it landed at RAF Lyneham. "He greeted me with, 'Dr Runcie, I presume'."

"He was amazingly Terry Waite. It seems miraculous to be able to pick up a conversation which could easily have taken place six years ago. He was full of enquiries about different people. He asked about my driver, who has driven us to many different places together."

Lord Runcie said any differences of opinion between himself and Mr Waite had not damaged their personal relationship. He said he believed his former envoy had not known what Oliver North, at the time the White House security adviser, was up to when he helped secure the release of the Rev Benjamin Weir and Father Lawrence Jenko, two American hostages, in 1985 and 1986 respectively. Later it emerged that both were set free as part of the arms-for-hostages deal with Iran.

Lord Runcie said: "When it came to the Iran-Contra scandal, that was a time when Terry and I had very searching words together. Terry was very anxious to make clear that his own association with Oliver North was restricted to transport and security."

Mr Waite was at the time effectively on secondment to the American church, he said. A group of churchmen had appealed for his help in securing the release of Dr Weir.

Lord Runcie said there was a relationship between Mr North and Mr Waite because the former US Marine lieutenant-colonel had attached himself to the church group. He



Message of hope: the postcard that inspired Mr Waite



Happy returns: Thomas Sutherland embraces his wife Jean on the balcony of the US military hospital in Wiesbaden

Nation's church bells ring out

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND NICHOLAS WOOD

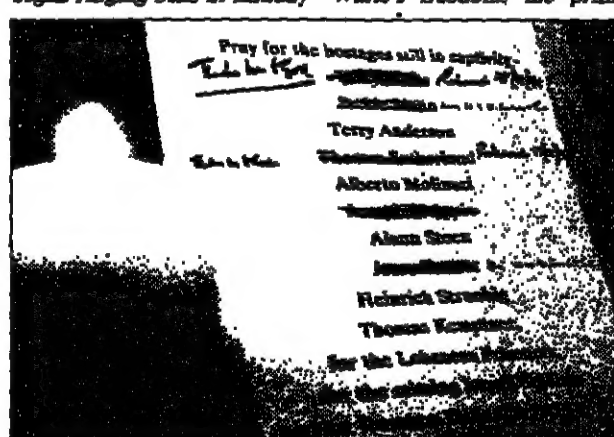
THOUSANDS of church bells rang out in unison throughout the country last night to celebrate the return of Terry Waite. Up to 500 churches in London joined the nationwide peal, the first of its kind since the Queen's silver jubilee in 1977. Dozens held special services and prayers of thanks, with more planned for today.

The celebration was initiated by the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope. Officials at Church House, the headquarters of the Church of England, called on all dioceses to join the chorus, to coincide with a service at All Saints', Blackheath, Mr Waite's parish church.

Bellringers rang a "special touch" of Stedman Cinques, a celebratory peal, on 12 bells at St Paul's. The peal was coordinated with ringers at St Martin-in-the-Fields, St

Mary-le-Bow and St Giles, Cripplegate, in London. Many vicars could not restrain their enthusiasm and began ringing bells at midday

or before. Some churches without bells played taped recordings. While the churches celebrated Mr Waite's freedom, the prime



Home fires: a candle burns in St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, beside a list showing hostages freed

minister said that his release had justified the government's refusal to bargain with hostage-takers. In the Commons, John Major joined with Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, in maintaining that would-be hostage-takers should realise that Britain would not be pressured by this "vile practice".

The prime minister added that he had telephoned Mr Waite on his flight home to tell him of the delight felt at his safe return.

At the London church that has been a focus of prayer for the hostages, St Bride's in Fleet Street, Canon John Oates led a luncheon service yesterday. Upstairs, simple handwritten prayers for Mr Waite's release still lay on the altar beside a list of captives, from which his name had been crossed off.

A steak, sleep and a wait for 'the boss'

FROM IAN MURRAY IN WIESBADEN

THOMAS Sutherland, the Scottish-born American, spent most of yesterday sleeping off "the best meal I have eaten in nearly seven years" and waiting for the arrival of "the boss", as he calls his wife, Jean.

The former dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut had arrived in the morning drizzle at Rhein-Main airport bearing a cheerful message about the three remaining American hostages. "I am very sorry I couldn't

bring your colleague, Terry Anderson, with me," he called out to journalists on his arrival. "But they assured us he would be free by the end of the month." Alann Stoen and Joseph Cicippio would be free "in a couple of days", he said. Later, at the air force hospital, he said: "It's become an embarrassment for them to hold hostages."

Mr Sutherland obviously wanted to talk to the press and the US State Department officials watching over him did not seem to mind. It was as though the sensitive negotiations of recent months were over and there was no danger of something being said which could hinder the release of the remaining hostages.

"Hello friends. I am very, very happy to see you," he said when he met Robert Kimmit, the American ambassador to Bonn, and other dignitaries sheltering on the tarmac under umbrellas. He had enjoyed a huge steak on the aircraft bringing him from Damascus. "I am being treated as if I were a king and here I am just a lowly hostage." He added: "I have never felt so wonderful in my life."

At the hospital, the stiff way that Mr Sutherland walked up the steps gave the only tell-tale sign that he had spent years chained to a wall. Clutching the first bunch of flowers he had seen in six and a half years, he went in to sleep while waiting for his wife to arrive.

Mr Sutherland had continued to teach in Beirut after her husband was seized and only went home to Iowa last week when her father died. She flew in yesterday with one of their three daughters, Kit, having had a 15-minute chat on the telephone with her husband. "We just took up where we left off," she said.

Postcard of Bunyan gave Waite hope

Minutes after his plane landed at RAF Lyneham, Terry Waite delivered the following speech without notes to the assembled press in an aircraft hangar

other happy days. It was also my pleasure a moment or two ago to meet the foreign secretary ... also it has been my pleasure and privilege to meet members of his staff both in Damascus and again on the plane. I extend to them my gratitude and thanks. And of course what could a homecoming be of this kind without the RAF?

Many, many people, both here in this country and around the world, have kept the name and the cause of hostages alive. They have kept that alive in their prayers, in their thoughts and in their actions.

I was kept in total and complete isolation for four years. I saw no one and spoke to no one apart from a cursory word with my guards when they brought me food. And one day out of the blue a guard came with a postcard. It was a postcard showing a stained glass window from Bedford

showing John Bunyan in jail ... I turned the card over and there was a message from someone whom I didn't know simply saying: "We remember, we shall not forget. We shall continue to pray for you and to work for all people who are detained around the world."

That thought, that sent me back to the marvellous work of agencies like Amnesty International and their letter-writing campaigns and I would say never despise those simple actions. Something, somewhere will get through to the people you are concerned about as it got through and to my fellows eventually.

The occasion today would not be complete without a word of special thanks and affection to the World Service of the BBC. For four years again one had nothing and then out of the blue a small radio appeared ... In the last 12 months the World Service

helped to keep us alive both spiritually, through the work of the religious department, and mentally, through the variety of cultural and news programmes that are broadcast with such excellence.

My family of course, who have had the unenviable task of having to face so many difficulties. I am proud of them and I am proud of my friends and those whom I love and care for and look forward to seeing soon.

Today also I remember that yesterday afternoon I left my prison with Tom Sutherland and we left behind Terry Anderson. Fortunately yesterday, for the first time, after we had made a special plea to our guards, his chain was released and he was at least able to walk around the room in which we were confined.

My captors assured me yesterday that in a few days time Joseph Cicippio and Alann Stoen, the two American hostages, will be released. They also assured me that Terry Anderson, a journalist of whom the journalistic profession can be justly proud, will be released by the end of this month ... We further more asked about the German

hostages and we were not able to get as definite a response concerning their case. We however were told that it was hoped that they would be freed by the end of the year. We would hope that that certainly is the case.

On this day, it would not be right for me to leave this podium without remembering all those, and all those in particular in the Middle East, who are held captive. It is wrong to hold people in such a way. It is self-defeating and those who do it fall well below civilised standards of behaviour, no matter who they are, no matter what nationality or what organisation they belong to.

We have lived in these last years through the appalling sufferings of the people of Lebanon. We have been in the midst of shelling. We have seen people die and killed in most brutal ways.

We know that the people of Lebanon have suffered greatly and those from whom I have just come can be assured that we in the church, for our part, will not rest until all are freed and there is justice and peace brought to people who deserve a better deal.

It must be Christmas: Smith's are giving away pens.



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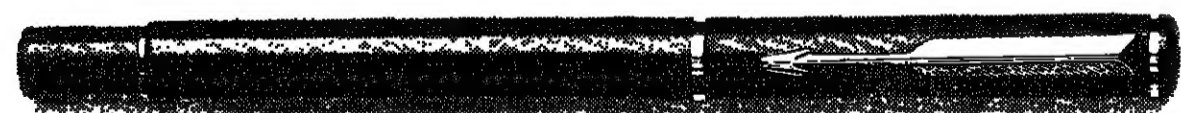
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Sotheby's fixed art prices to reduce export tax, jury told

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SOTHEBY'S re-routed art works from its Paris office to other countries so that clients could avoid French tax and the chance that the national museums might step in to prevent export. Knightsbridge crown court heard yesterday.

The allegations of "illegal under-declaring of values to the French customs authorities" were made by Michael Grieve, for the defence, on the sixth day of the trial of James Hodges, a former administrator at Sotheby's in London, who denies 22 charges of theft and false accountancy. Mr Grieve showed Isabelle Hamon, administrator at Sotheby's

Paris office, copies of documents either to or from her.

The first, which was also shown to the jury, was a memo dated November 1985, addressed to Mrs. Hamon from Roberto Fainello, Sotheby's former tribal art expert. Here Mr Fainello was quoted as saying: "All my big French clients don't deal from the Paris office for obvious reasons". When asked what Mr Fainello meant, Mrs Hamon said she did not know. "The obvious reasons are they did it to avoid tax, didn't they?" Mr Grieve said. "I don't know," Mrs Hamon replied.

Mr Grieve suggested that "the difficulty" could be that the museums of France had the option of buying art at the price declared on export documents. Again Mrs Hamon said she did not know.

Mr Grieve also showed the jury a telex sent by Mrs Hamon to Felicity Nicholson, Sotheby's head of antiquities, on April 25, 1985, dealing with export arrangements, and concluding: "Thanks to destroy this telex after reading."

It read: "Definite exports with payment in France to be made by the client himself to a foreign client. A list with individual lots should be made with French prices. The client should decide himself which prices he wants to fix for customers."

Mr Grieve asked Mrs Hamon: "This is a possible way, is it not, of reducing taxation payable on the export of these items?" Speaking through an interpreter, Mrs Hamon acknowledged she was the author of the telex but could not remember anything else. As for his suggestion regarding tax evasion, she said: "It could be, may be."

Mr Grieve then suggested the following scenario: "The French client exports his items to someone abroad and makes a declaration of the value of the items for customs' purposes. But in order to reduce the impact of the 6 per cent tax, he states a price which is well below what he knows to be the true value."

The reason why the client chose the price, Mr Grieve suggested, was to avoid attracting the attention of the French museums. "The recipient of the goods from the French client can then enter the goods for sale abroad, in London, at their true value," Mrs Hamon replied. "But he is going to pay just the same when the goods leave France."

When asked why she might want Mrs Nicholson to destroy the telex, Mrs Hamon said: "I no longer remember."

The hearing continues today.

Barrister accused of marriage fraud

A BARRISTER arranged dozens of marriages of convenience between vagrants and illegal immigrants who wanted to stay in Britain, a court was told yesterday.

Laurence Ignatius Obene-Djan, aged 59, gave traps £50 to buy a suit or dress for the ceremony and paid them £400 to get married in some one else's name. It was alleged at Harrow crown court, north London.

Dr Obene-Djan applied for copies of birth certificates belonging to innocent people and used them in the register office weddings, the jury of four women and eight men was told.

Tom Kark, for the prosecution, said: "Immigration officers and detectives investigated a number of marriages arranged by Dr Obene-Djan. Thirty-seven of these are listed on the schedule."

"In every single one either false names or addresses were given to obtain the birth certificates. Either these de-

tails were bogus or the documentation was falsified in some other way.

"These were very much marriages of convenience designed wholly to defraud the secretary of state for the Home Office."

Mr Kark said that a report from the *News of the World* infiltrated the marriage ring through a stamp who was known as Dublin Johnny. The reporter, Chris Blythe, agreed to marry Rosemary Benoit, a Ghanaian aged 51, for £800. On the day of the wedding, however, which was arranged for April 20 last year, the wedding party was arrested at Hackney town hall.

Dr Obene-Djan, of Maida Vale, north London, is charged with conspiracy to defraud the Home Office and making false statements.

Mary Connolly, aged 29, of Walthamstow, northeast London, who allegedly worked as his secretary, faces the same charges.

The trial continues today.

Teenager 'lost nerve to kill'

A YOUNG woman hired to kill a man told a jury yesterday that as she stood at his bedside holding two knives she realised she could not go through with it.

Louise Price, aged 19, said she stood for a minute at the bedside of Terrence Reeves, aged 44, who lay sleeping with his wife. "I then realised I couldn't do it, and I had to go. Something creaked. I must have stepped on a floorboard. He woke, and I panicked, and lashed out at him with one of the knives."

Price, of Blackbird Leys, Oxford, alleged she had been hired to kill Mr Reeves by his wife, Christina, aged 44, and three other members of the family.

She said: "He was trying to get up, and I lashed out again, and he fell on top of me. He tried to twist the knife into me, and he fell over on me... he ran out of the house screaming. I was covered in blood from head to foot. I was soaking all through."

Price, aged 18 at the time, was giving evidence at Oxford crown court against Mr Reeves's stepson Paul Reeves, aged 19, of Little Milton, Oxfordshire, his stepdaughter, Denise Cresswell, aged 21, and her husband, David Cresswell, aged 23, both of Radley, Oxfordshire. All deny conspiracy to murder. Price and Mrs Reeves admit conspiracy, and will be sentenced at the end of the trial, which continues today.

Train robber 'shot by drugs gang'

THE Great Train Robber Charlie Wilson was gunned down at his Spanish villa in what was believed to be a drugs-related gangland killing. Westminster coroner's court in central London was told yesterday.

Police believed that he had angered a member of his or a rival drugs gang, although there was no direct evidence to connect him with drugs dealing, the inquest was told. Mr Wilson, aged 57, was shot at point-blank range at his home in Marbella on his 35th wedding anniversary in April last year. Paul Knapman, the coroner, recorded a verdict of unlawful killing.

A cyclist seen near by before the shooting was almost certainly the killer, who had been talking Mr Wilson and "waiting for people to get out of the way", Det Supt Alec Edwards, of Scotland Yard, said.

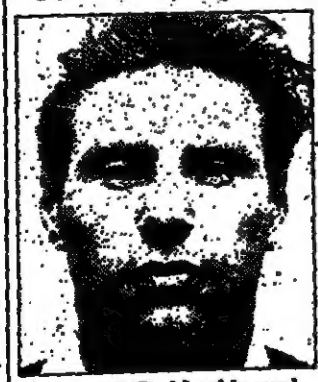
Pat Wilson, aged 56, described how her husband had gestured in the direction his murderers had fled as he lay dying beside his swimming pool. She said a man in his late 20s, with a south London accent, called at about 7pm and asked for her husband.

Mrs Wilson, of Twickenham, west London, said she heard a man say he was a friend. She went back into the lounge, then heard two loud bangs, but thought they came from a nearby building site. "I sat there till I heard the dog screaming," she said. "I rushed round the corner. Charlie was lying there on the side of the pool face down. I saw bleeding coming from his mouth."

Mr Edwards said: "There is circumstantial evidence from the Spanish police and the British police that this was a drugs dealing related incident. Mr Wilson is thought to have been connected in some way with drugs dealing and upset a member of his gang or a rival gang, provoking an execution order against him."

"He was meeting other British criminals who are known drugs dealers, who have since been convicted of drugs dealing and one who has been executed in a gangland killing." Police were still trying to trace the killer, he added.

Rufus Crompton, head of forensic medicine at St George's hospital in Tooting, south London, said Mr Wilson was shot in the left side of his neck.



Wilson: killed beside pool at his villa in Marbella

Love's saucy old sweet song

By SIMON TART, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LOVE poem 600 years old, found by archaeologists in York, has emerged after months of study as a saucy memoir rather than 14th-century romantic.

The subject of the verse, found on a set of boxwood tablets, seems to have been a lady who could not bring herself to say "yes" to her amorous minstrel, but would not gainsay him. The lines are reminiscent of the music hall song "She didn't say yes, but she didn't say no".

The tablets, coated with wax on which the poem had been impressed, surfaced in a heap of garden soil at Swinegate in York almost two years ago. Since then conservators have freeze-

dried the tablets, which has made them more legible, and British Library scholars have been able to decipher some of the cursive Middle English script, written in a northern dialect.

The tablets, measuring only 5cm by 3cm, were found in an elegant leather wallet and have survived from the last quarter of the 14th century. Velum or manuscript at that time were expensive, and wax-covered tablets were common notebooks that could be reused.

Dominic Tweddle, assistant director of the York Archaeological Trust, which found the tablets, said: "This is certainly the finest complete set of tablets to have survived in western Europe."

The text seems to be a little off-colour, even pornographic, which was not unusual for that period. Though the writer was certainly educated, there is not enough to be able to judge the literary merit of the poem, but we may find more as we continue conservation."

In medieval times, York was an important business and administrative centre, but the area in which the tablets were found was used for domestic cultivation and for dumping rubbish. The tablets might have been carried hanging from a belt, and stolen by a thief who discarded them when he realised they were only documents. A silk purse was found near by.



Firemen fighting the blaze which destroyed the contents of the castle, and Lady Mount Charles surveying the damage

Owners escape as fire wrecks 18th-century castle

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Ireland's few remaining unspoilt 18th-century castles was damaged in a fire which swept through it early yesterday.

Fire officers estimated that 75 per cent of Slane Castle on the banks of the Boyne in Co Louth had been destroyed in what Kevin Nolan, a former chairman of Ireland's National Trust,

described as a tremendous loss. "It was one of the finest Gothic revival castles in Ireland, and both the building and its contents were of tremendous importance. We have many ruined 18th-century castles around the country, but it is very sad to see one that is intact be destroyed."

The castle is owned by

Lord Mount Charles, who has struggled successfully to preserve the building, organising rock concerts in the grounds and opening a restaurant and night club to help pay the bills. Yesterday Lord Mount Charles, aged 39, said he was heartbroken at the loss and indicated the damage might be too extensive to repair. He said he and

his wife were not sleeping in the castle but in a house nearby, and that they may have saved their lives. "I could actually see the flames as I was crossing the bridge," Lord Mount Charles said.

"In flame it was a fairly horrendous sight. For a while it looked as if they (the fire brigade) had the fire under control but it got into

the top floor of the castle, which is very dry, and once it started travelling there, it went like wildfire."

Lord Mount Charles, whose family has lived at Slane since 1701, said many fine pictures and architectural features had been destroyed, including the main dining room and the Chinese lantern room next door to it.

"...the World Service helped keep us alive..."

TERRY WAITE after 1,763 days in captivity.

"I would guess that if one took a bunch of money...and said to a director: 'Put together the best kind of international radio you could devise', I think you would come up with something like the BBC".

THOMAS SUTHERLAND after 2,353 days in captivity.

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Council rejects Heseltine criticism

By TIM JONES

LEADERS of North Tyneside council yesterday criticised Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, for suggesting their incompetence had turned a riot-torn estate into a dumping ground for problem families.

Brian Flood, the council leader, accused Mr Heseltine of political blackmail over his "thinly veiled threats" to cut government funds for aid schemes unless he had clear evidence that the council was effectively managing the Meadow Well estate in North Shields. After a visit last week, Mr Heseltine said local councillors should be ashamed by conditions and morale on the estate, which was disrupted by riots two months ago.

Mr Flood said: "These groundless and ill-conceived accusations can only be seen as an attempt to score cheap political points. The people of Meadow Well deserve more consideration than just being used as a political football. He knows that poverty and long term unemployment are at the root of the estate's difficulties."



Dinner for one: Berlin Zoo's giant panda Bao Bao showing more interest in sugar cane than in his intended mate, Ming Ming, when they met for the first time at London Zoo yesterday. They barked and shrieked from either side of a glass screen

separating their cages, where they will be kept until April, when Ming Ming is expected to become fertile. If they are compatible by then, the pandas will be put in the same cage, otherwise Ming Ming will be artificially inseminated.

Confused signals on internment

Army backtracks on 'herogram to IRA'

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE army in Northern Ireland moved yesterday to try to repair some of the damage caused by quoted remarks from a senior officer in the province which have led to a public debate about the merits of reintroducing internment.

Official sources have made clear they consider the remarks, published in a newspaper last weekend, ill-judged and have expressed irritation that the debate should be taking place now.

A spokesman at army headquarters at Lisburn, Co Antrim, said the army was anxious to set the record straight. The army recognises that internment remains a policy option but the time was not right to implement it, he said. However, his remarks were wholly at variance with the views printed in *The Independent on Sunday* which were considered to be those of officers close to Lieutenant General Sir John Wilsey, the General Officer Commanding.

The source quoted in the article described as "senior and authoritative" referred to the IRA as a formidable enemy capable of brilliant operations. It gave the impression the only effective weapon left for the army was the reintroduction of internment and that this could be implemented far more successfully than in 1971, when obvious mistakes were made.

While the government wishes to retain the option of internment, it regards public discussion of it as harming the essential element of surprise in its implementation. It was suggested army officers posted to the province for relatively short tours of say two years were prone to push for short cuts to peace.

In reality, internment is not on the agenda. It is not being discussed seriously within the Northern Ireland Office nor at cabinet level and there is no prospect it will be in the foreseeable future.

As opponents of internment have pointed out, the present situation in Northern Ireland would not justify the adoption of a measure so pregnant with risk and politically damaging side-effects. The death toll in the province this year, for example, stands at 84, fewer than the deaths in a single month in 1972 when internment was last in force. The security situation has improved dramatically. Tragically, the killing continues, but much of it concerns those involved in paramilitary activity on both sides.

It is significant that, with the exception of the army, most of those in Britain calling for internment have little or no experience of Northern Ireland themselves. Among its most trenchant opponents are politicians and some soldiers who in the past have had direct day-to-day experience of containing the troubles.

Merlyn Rees, the Northern Ireland secretary who was in office when internment was phased out in 1975, was dismissive of the army's arguments this week. There was nothing the IRA would want more, he said, than a return of internment.

General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, second in command in the province in 1971, just before internment was introduced, recently described calls for its reintroduction as "another of those rushes of blood to the head to which some people in Ulster are prone". In the republic, the response has been hostile to a measure regarded as having exacerbated the security situation and enhanced support for the IRA.

Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister, speaking in Oxford on Monday said internment was a dangerous step which would fail to deter the IRA. "They picked up innocent people and torture was used," he said of 1971. "I cannot see how it can be used again in the province with that historical backdrop."

Pub bomb enquiry police are remanded

Four former West Midlands detectives charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and perjury over their roles in the 1974 Birmingham pub bombing enquiry were remanded on unconditional bail yesterday until January 28.

The most senior is retired Det Supt George Reade, who led the enquiry into the bombing, which killed 21 people and injured 162. The others are former Det Sgt Colin Morris and former Det Constables Terence Woodwiss and Rex Langford.

Lawyers for the four said, after the hearing at Bow Street magistrates' court in London, that they would apply for the charges to be dropped "on the grounds of an abuse of process by reason of delay, prejudicial publicity and other matters".

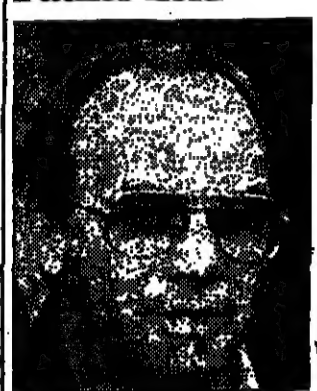
Brewery shuts

Hartley's Brewery in Uxbridge, Cumbria, is to close after 228 years. Robinsons, the owners, will move production to Stockport.

Driver quiz

More than 1,600 owners of white Ford Fiestas in the Manchester area will be interviewed by police after Carl Crookes, aged 10, was killed by a hit and run driver.

Father held



Stephen Owen, aged 36, above, who is accused of the attempted murder of Kevin Taylor, a lorry driver who killed his son, was remanded in custody for seven days by magistrates at Sittingbourne, in Kent.

Ban lifted

Anglian Water lifted a hosepipe ban, which has been in force in some parts of the region since August 1990.

Drama gift

The West End theatre producer Cameron Mackintosh has given £250,000 to his old school, Prior Park college, Bath, towards the rebuilding of a drama and sixth form centre after its destruction by fire.

Sword treasure

Workers at a gravel pit near Newark, Nottinghamshire, discovered a 3,000-year-old ceremonial bronze sword.

Small booksellers losing price war

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SMALL booksellers are succumbing in the price war being waged by leading bookshop chains, and one leading publisher is considering leaving the business because of the threat to the net book agreement, which maintains prices on titles agreed by publishers and booksellers.

Pauline Sturridge has run Topsham Books in Topsham, near Exeter, for ten years, but she will close in January. "There is not going to be room for the small bookseller any more once the best sellers are discounted," she said. "Exeter, with a Dillons and Waterstone's, is only three miles away, and customers think that the discount of 25 or 30 per cent on best sellers is worth the extra bus fare, even if there are only a few books which are actually discounted. Worth it or not, they won't come here."

The net book agreement is doomed and I don't believe it will see another Christmas. To me, its loss means the end of literature in this country because young writers won't be able to get published as they have been, because of the competition for sales."

The publisher David Thomas sold his David and Charles company last year to start David St John Thomas, devoted to specialist subjects. He said: "So many small bookshop proprietors have told me that this will be their last Christmas, because they cannot afford to compete without the net book agree-

ment, that I am no longer convinced that publishing is the right business to be in."

"For the small shop owner, bookselling is not so much a business as a lifestyle, and many of them are now operating so close to the edge that they are already putting up closure notices, in the expectation that the agreement will end soon. They cannot compete with big chains on discounting the best sellers, and are suffering badly."

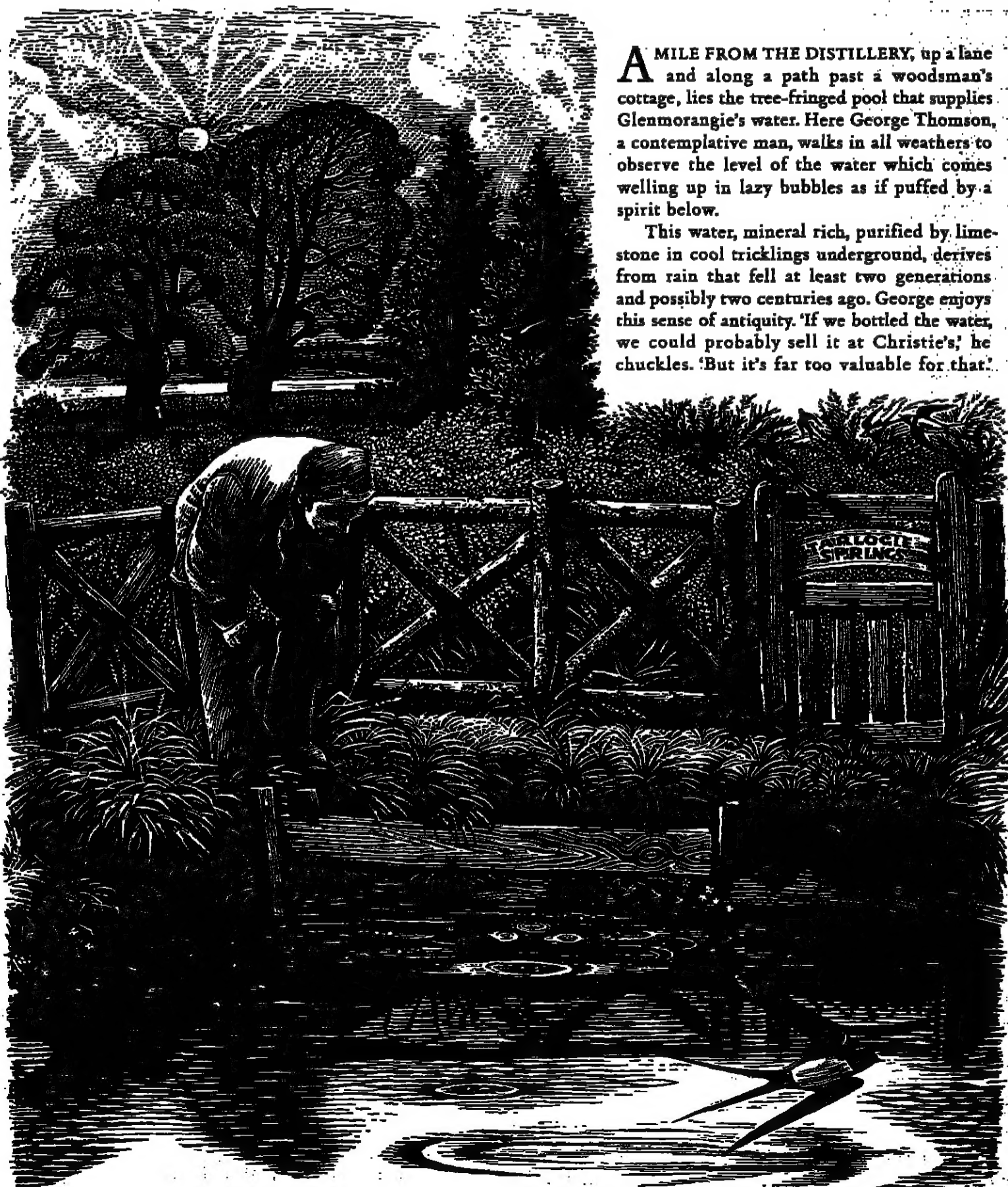
One of the fiercest opponents of the net book agreement, Terry Maher, chairman of Pentos Books, has slashed prices by 25 per cent on a range of best sellers not covered by the agreement in his Dillons, Hatchards and Books Etc stores. The Waterstone's chain has responded with cuts of up to 30 per cent. Although attempts by Mr Maher to discount NBA books have been met by injunctions from publishers, and no titles covered by the agreement have yet been discounted, the price war is expected to lead to the end of the agreement.

The Publishers' Association and the Booksellers' Association both support the agreement, but Sydney Davies, of the booksellers, admitted that it was not expected to survive much longer. "There is no evidence yet of large numbers of small bookshops going out of business, but we would not expect them to shut up shop before Christmas when some do 50 per cent of their business."

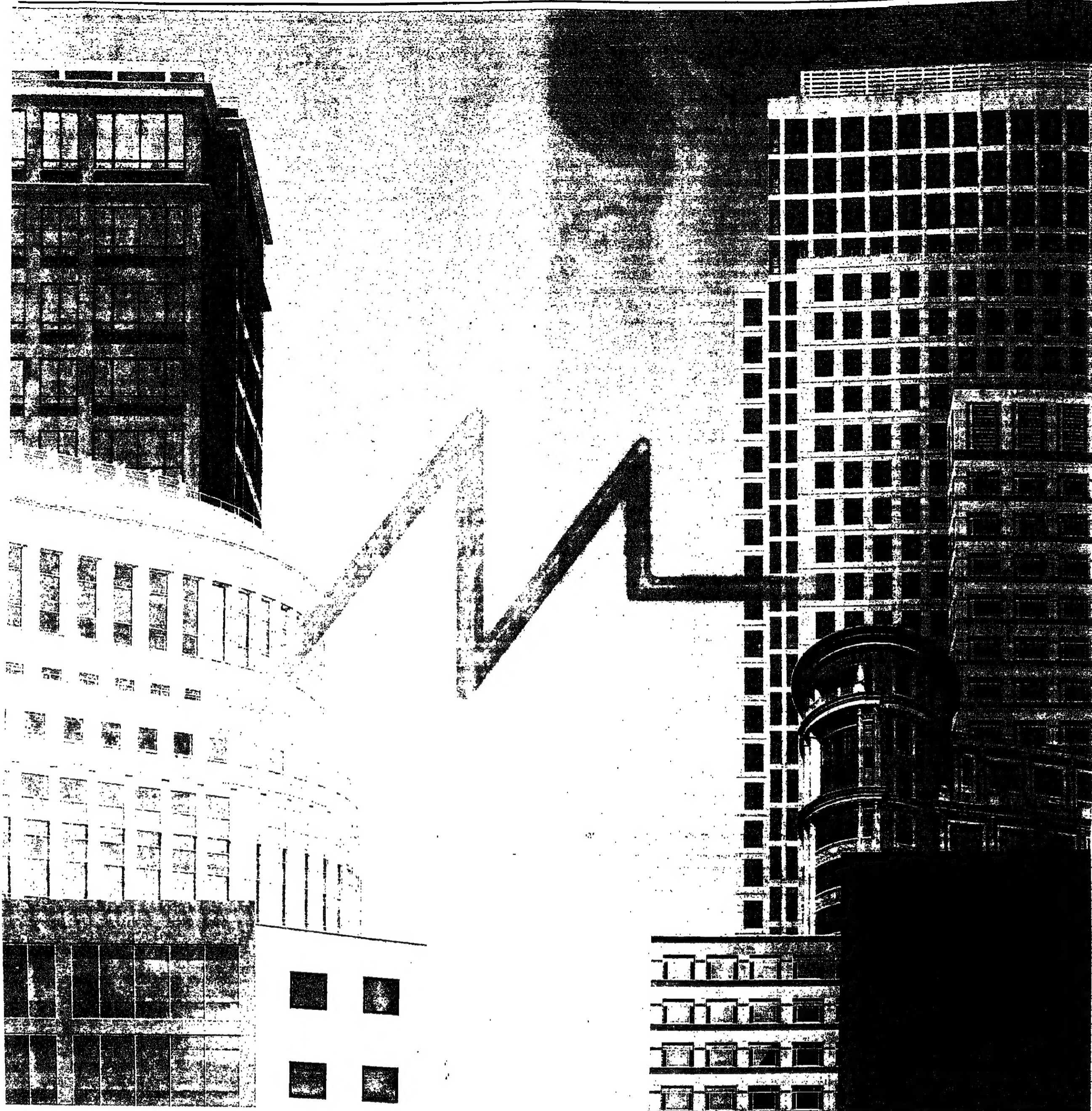
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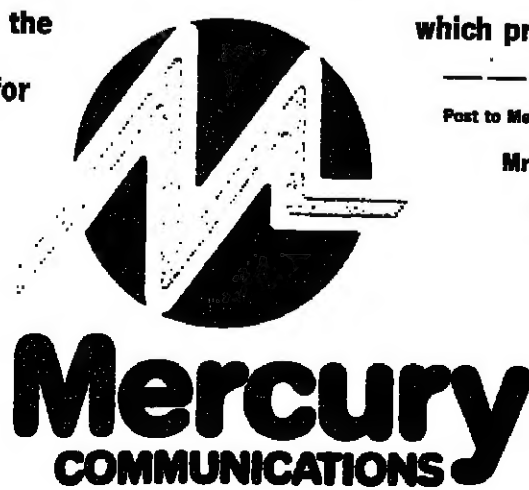
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JUNK MEALS IN BRITAIN AND THE FAT OF THE LAND IN FRANCE:

LITERARY WARFARE IN NEW YORK:

REITH AND WOMEN

PETER TRIVERN

Foie gras goes to the heart of French health

From the depths of Gascony, that great citadel of gastronomy, comes news to brighten the darkest November day for those who find it nearly impossible to push aside a plate of foie gras or turn down seconds of confit. In a region where it is practically obligatory to pursue a diet high in saturated fats, the level of deaths through cardiovascular disease is far below that for the rest of France.

It seems variations on a culinary theme of duck and goose, preferably fried in their own fat, provide the secret of a long and healthy life. According to the World Health Organisation, while heart attacks kill some 145 in every 100,000 middle-aged Frenchmen every year, the comparative figure in and around Toulouse, Gascony's largest city, is only about 80.

Those who like food may also rejoice in the knowledge, courtesy of *The New York Times*, that France's National Institute of Health and Medical Research has concluded, after a ten-year study of Gascon eating habits, that enthusiastic consumption of the livers of force-fed geese and ducks may actually be good for you.

Dr Serge Renaud, the institute's director of research, believes the fat from both birds may more closely resemble olive oil than the butter or lard condemned in many heart studies.

In Gascony, of course, the locals see nothing particularly surprising in the findings. "Naturally, we do not nourish ourselves on foie gras alone, that would be too expensive," said Jean-Manuelle Vergnes, who runs a small-order business in Sarrazat that supplies 50,000 devoted clients throughout France. Like most of her friends and neighbours, Mme Vergnes has been eating foie gras virtually every day of her life for many years — "and I feel wonderful".

Over at the Chateau de Larroque in Gimont, André Fagedet, owner and chef, proudly acknowledges using between 30lb and 45lb of foie gras every week (his mother was celebrated locally for recipes using it). "I have no doubt at all the old boys out in the countryside living into their nineties, even reaching 100."

It goes without saying that, in America, where 315 in every 100,000 middle-aged men annually die of heart attacks, the idea of increasing consumption of goose or duck fat for health amounts almost to diabolic heresy. Yet as Dr Dean Ornish, a US heart specialist, told *The New York Times*: "My goodness, it is even possible that this fat may provide some kind of protection."

SUSAN BELL

School dinners leave youngsters feeling hungry

OLIVER Twist would find himself in good company if he was attending secondary school today, according to a survey of children's eating habits published yesterday.

Nearly half the 844 children aged between 11 and 16 included in the poll claimed that they never felt full after a school lunch, and could certainly eat more if it was offered.

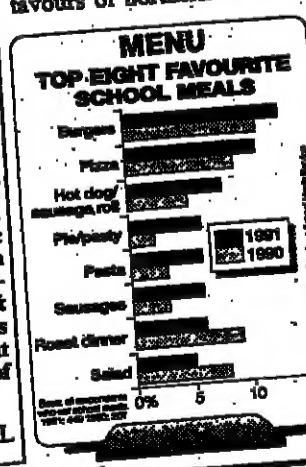
The schoolchildren's claim may not be entirely the school caterers' fault. The survey, commissioned by Gardiner Merchant, a contract caterer, also disclosed that 9 per cent of children, equivalent to nearly 300,000 nationwide, have nothing to eat in the morning — before going to school. One in six, or about 528,000 on a national scale, has no hot meal cooked at home in the evening, and almost half do not eat school meals.

The Opposition was quick to seize upon the figures yesterday as proof of the folly of economising on the provision of school meals. David Clark, the shadow minister for food and agriculture, professed himself shocked by the findings and said: "This latest survey confirms Labour's belief in the importance of school meals for children. Nutritional standards should be re-introduced for school meals as part of a healthy eating policy. It is vital we get the message across to young people that, by eating the right food, they can lead healthy lives in adulthood."

According to the survey, there has been a 4 per cent improvement in the take-up of school meals since last year, when fewer than half the children surveyed were eating them. This year the proportion had risen to 52 per cent, but that is still well below the 64 per cent recorded in 1979.

The children's favourite school foods were lamb chops and pizza, followed by hot dogs, sausages, and chips. When asked the last year when they were claimed to be their favourite school food, burgers, fell to eleventh place. Nonetheless, three quarters of British children still eat chips at least once a week, and more than a quarter eat them four or more times a week.

There were marked regional variations in children's preferences. Sausage rolls and curry took the two top places in Scotland. Roast dinners, which diminished in popularity nationwide, maintained a redoubt in the South-West and Wales, where they still hold second place, and pushed burgers held third position in the favour of northern children.



while jacket potatoes enjoyed similar status in the East and the Midlands.

Those in London and the South showed more than average appetite for sausages (their third favourite) and salads (fourth). Like roasts, salads lost popularity nationwide compared with last year.

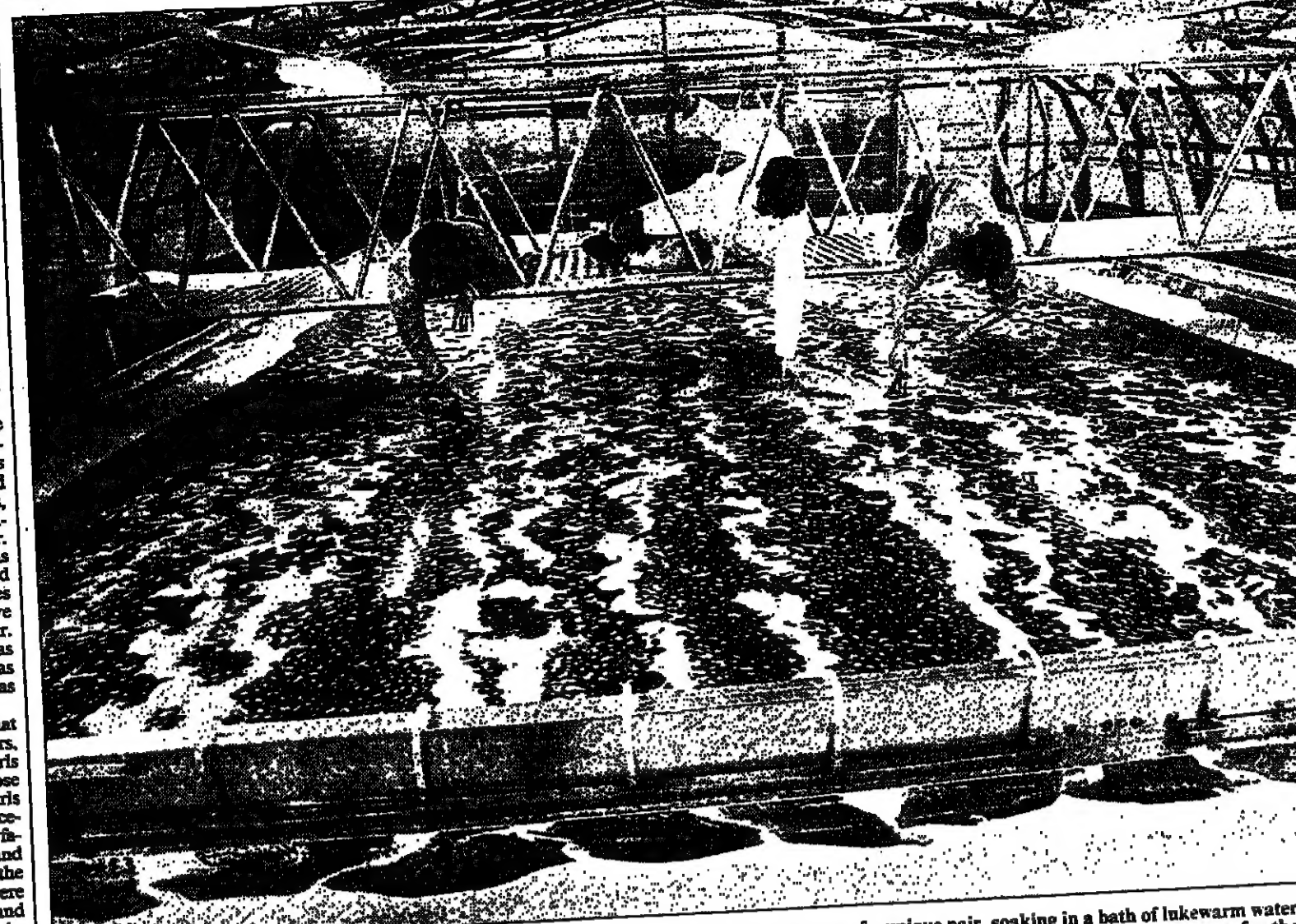
Ice-cream, cakes and buns remained the most favoured puddings for school lunches, but almost all puddings have lost popularity since last year. The solitary exception was sponge pudding, nominated as a favourite by almost twice as many this year as last.

The researchers found that boys tended to prefer burgers, pizza and sausages, while girls were more likely to choose salads, pasta and roasts. Girls were more likely to eat ice-cream, which was also favoured by older children and those living in London and the South. Cakes and buns were more favoured by boys and those living in the East and the Midlands. Boys were generally less likely to eat puddings than girls, as were those living in the South-West and Wales.

Three in ten of those who did not eat school meals said they preferred a packed lunch, and one in ten said his or her mother preferred that they should have a packed lunch. Fewer respondents than last year claimed that they did not eat school meals because the quality was poor, they did not like the taste, or because the meals were too expensive.

The pollsters also interviewed 635 mothers, 86 per cent of whom said it was important that schools should provide lunch for children. Mothers thought their children were eating school lunches more frequently than was in fact the case, and they knew little about the food their children were buying out of school. Only 12 per cent of mothers thought their children bought food outside school, whereas 36 per cent of children said they were doing so regularly.

ROBIN YOUNG



Bathtime for Bacchus: a 16th-century Brussels tapestry, "The Triumph of Bacchus", one of a unique pair, soaking in a bath of lukewarm water at the textile conservation studio in Hampton Court palace as part of a cleaning process before it is hung in the King's Apartments for the palace's public reopening next July. After its soaking, it will be sprayed with a neutral detergent before being rinsed and left to dry on a screen

Mailer plunges a knife into hostile reviewer

PHYSICAL courage is not generally a quality required for service as a literary critic, even in New York. This may explain why four eminent subscribers declined the honour of reviewing *Harlow's Ghost*, the new novel by Norman Mailer, when they were approached by *The New York Times Book Review*, the most influential forum in the country.

However Mr Mailer's reputation for defending his literary offspring with the ferocity of a heavyweight boxer, was not enough to deter John Simon, a magazine journalist with a reputation for verbal hat-throwing. He had no qualms in accepting the hazardous mission.

Afficionados of Mr Simon's virulent style were surprised

by the unwonted gentleness with which he dismissed Mr Mailer's 1,300-page volume about life in the Central Intelligence Agency. "Puerile, perverse... shopworn mysticism... an arbitrary, lumpy, outstays its welcome, keeps on outstaying it," he said in a review which even said some nice things about New York's official author and journalist. Other critics were arriving at similar conclusions.

However the reaction from Mr Mailer to Mr Simon's review was nuclear. He stormed into the offices of Rebecca Sinkler, the Review Editor, and demanded space for a counter-offensive. She yielded.

The result, published on Sunday, was an extraordinary full-page attack on Mr Simon, delivered in the trademark Mailer-esque third person. Mr Simon was a vindictive third-rate thinker utterly unequipped to tackle "Mailer's magnum opus", said Mr Mailer. Moreover, he was a coward whose "curiously spineless" review appeared to reflect fear of physical retribution. "Back of Simon's neckline, the author beats the pointed teeth of an over-anxious heart of an over-extended pedant," he said. Mr Mailer, who was once convicted of stabbing one of his six wives, boasted that he had

previously threatened Mr Simon for a negative review of his daughter's acting abilities and that he had met him at a publisher's party and challenged him to a fight to defend his honour last summer.

In his reply to the reply, Mr Simon said he had not been afraid of Mr Mailer "since his physical assaults have not been directed at critics". He also noted that, in going for his jugular, the author had neglected to address the literary points of his review. If he had erred in any way, it was in being too kind to Mr Mailer, said the reviewer, who is known locally by the nickname of Simon the Bad. But Mr Simon wound up with a knife in the back from his own editor, who appended a note

to Mr Mailer's diatribe saying she had not been aware that Mr Simon had previously subjected the author to negative reviews. She did, however, compliment Mr Simon on his bravery, thanking him for "stepping in where others would not tread".

Mr Mailer's eruption was merely an extreme form in a genre which is becoming fashionable now that such commercial high stakes ride on the publicity surrounding the launch of a new book. Publishers and writers have taken to staging counter-offensives to limit the damage from negative reviews, though none has been accorded the privilege of a platform such as Mr Mailer's.

CHARLES BRENNER

Women agonise over Auntie's all-male lecture

THE 44th Reith lecturer, the genetic scientist Steve Jones, is the 43rd man to be invited to take on one of radio's most illustrious tasks. Women, however, are no longer prepared to sit back and let "Auntie" ignore them.

Yesterday *The Times* spoke to a number of eminent women widely regarded as suitable candidates. Most were unaware that there had been only one woman Reith lecturer and voiced their dismay and anger. Not one had ever been asked to deliver the broadcasts.

The BBC does not disclose the criteria used to select the "person of authority" who is invited annually to undertake some original research delivered as the Reith lectures, inaugurated in 1947 and named after the first director-general. Over the years, subjects have included politics, medicine, science, philosophy, the arts and justice.

Lesley Abdela, made MBE last year for services to women in politics, wrote to the BBC several years ago asking how many women had been invited. She was told there had been one: Margery Perham in 1961, who talked about "the colonial reckoning".

"They refused to tell me what criteria they used," Ms Abdela said. "They admitted that few women ever appeared on the shortlist, but then said there was no bias against women. I was determined to take the matter further. I felt this should be investigated as there are many suitable women who have not been approached. I believe that the BBC should be investigated from top to bottom on its approach to women."

Other women have been equally appalled. "Perhaps it is a symptom of the fact that there are too few women in the sort of profession they tend to choose from," said Baroness Warnock, recently retired as mistress of Girton College, Cambridge. "Yet I can think of a number of eminent women in medicine and the sciences who are suitable."

"No, I have never been asked. Certainly I would have

said yes. Writing lectures is my profession, after all."

Elizabeth Sidney, an occupational psychologist who runs a management consultancy, said she would love to be given the opportunity to deliver the lectures. She is interested in the development of the educational role in management and puts forward "the learning society" as a suitable subject. "I have never been asked, but would welcome the idea," she said. "I would be extremely interested and terrified. The under-representation of women cannot really be explained except in terms of bias."

Anne McLaren, a fellow of the Royal Society, biologist and director of the Medical Research Council mammalian development unit at University College London, offered another theory. "I think it involves too much work," she said.

"I have never been asked and I don't know any woman who has, but I would not be interested because I am too busy."

Officially, the BBC is making no comment. A copy of a letter by Ms Abdela has now been sent to Michael Checkland, the director-general. "We do not wish to pre-empt his reply," the BBC said last night.

Many insiders believe that more women should be approached. With three women now on the board of governors, it is possible that a new attitude could emerge. If the BBC is looking for ideas, it need go no further than studying the women who put their names to the recent *Times* charter for women.

Reith symbolised the days when public service broadcasting was at its height and the lectures were regarded as the most pure example of that genre. He regarded the BBC as an agency of divine intervention in the cultural affairs of the nation, and perhaps it is that Reithian legacy that has kept women out in the cold.

RAY CLANCY

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BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

Croats' last stand delays mercy mission to Vukovar

By WILLIAM FROST IN SID, YUGOSLAVIA
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YUGOSLAV federal army troops mopped up dwindling resistance from last-ditch Croat snipers in Vukovar yesterday and captured the town's hospital, where 800 patients and civilians were awaiting evacuation by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy who visited a refugee camp outside Vukovar, said before he travelled to Zagreb to meet Franjo Tudjman, the Croat president: "We knew that Vukovar and its population suffered greatly, but what we have seen today is far worse than we had feared... We will do everything we can to find a peaceful solution to this conflict."

Fighting continued as Croat irregular forces yesterday staged a futile last stand against the vastly superior federal troops in what remains of the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar. The Croat fighters had earlier prevented the removal of 500 seriously wounded patients from the shell-battered hospital. Several members of the Serb-led forces who took the town last Sunday were wounded by sniper fire. The die-hard band of Croat fighters who stayed behind to harry the victorious federal army also launched rocket-propelled grenades from rooftops.

The Red Cross had hoped to move all the injured under army escort to the Croat-held town of Nustar, about 12 miles from Vukovar. But, as sniper fire continued in the centre and north of Vukovar, officials decided the risks were too great.

A Red Cross spokesman said that, at that stage, the federal army had not been able to provide the necessary safeguards. "The evacuation has been delayed, not abandoned. We hope it will take place as soon as possible," he added.

Plans to evacuate several hundred refugees were also delayed by the fighting. A fleet of buses had been provided by

the federal authorities to take the homeless to Nustar. But, as firing continued, the army postponed the operation.

Fighting also continued yesterday in the small town of Borovo, just north of Vukovar. Croatian radio accused the federal army of continuing to wage war after the ceasefire. But federal forces blamed fanatical Croat paramilitaries for the resumed skirmishing.

Vukovar has been turned into a moonscape. Farm livestock roams the rubble on a carpet of spent cartridge cases, shattered furniture and broken glass. Occasionally they are pursued by stray dogs.

Misa Jankovic, a driver, said: "Few of the town's roads are passable to any vehicle but a tank. There are craters everywhere, sewage from broken drains, and bodies, too. Many bodies. The bombardment from artillery never let up - batteries all around the town, constant shelling."

Live grenades and Kalashnikovs lie in the streets where the Croat defenders of Vukovar abandoned their weapons as the town fell. More military equipment and uniforms have been left in the damp and rat-infested sewers below the broken pavements where families took shelter during the bombardment.

An estimated 20,000 federal troops took part in the siege of Vukovar. More than 1,000 people are thought to have died in the battle, but the figure is almost certainly higher.

Weak, but continued resistance from Croat fighters in Vukovar still jeopardises the chances of survival for patients critically injured in the cellar hospital, and at the same time strengthens the hand of Serbs not content with the capture of the town alone. There are those in the federal army, with its already-established record for unilateral action, who would press on and crush the towns of Vinkovci and Osijek before moving against Zagreb, the Croatian capital, itself.



Cycle of despair: a couple yesterday fleeing the embattled town of Vukovar, carrying all their remaining possessions on a bicycle

Stumbling pace of advance dulls victory

The army's belated triumph in Vukovar has brought Yugoslavia near the brink of disintegration, write Anne McElvoy in Zagreb and Dessa Trevisan in Belgrade

SERB-DOMINATED forces, who now control Vukovar, fired their guns into the air in a victory gesture as they closed around the central square at midday yesterday.

Ed Koestel, spokesman for the European Community monitors in Zagreb, estimated that up to 1,000 defenders are thought to be hiding in cellars and blasted buildings, fearing massacre at the hands of uncontrolled Serb irregulars if they emerge.

The Croatian commander, Milan Dedakovic, gave his troops the order to surrender after army officers promised that Croatian defenders would go unhurt.

Despite its belated triumph, the army has been embarrassed by the time it took to capture Vukovar and even the mopping-up operation is taking longer than predicted with pockets of resistance showing up the lack of courage of the attacking infantry.

The 15th ceasefire is already in tatters with fierce artillery attacks reported yesterday on the coastal resort of Zadar and at several towns along the central front.

The number of refugees swells by the week: some 4,000 civilians were allowed to leave

Vukovar on foot yesterday, emerging on the Serbian side after the army had refused to allow an evacuation straight on to Croatian-held territory. Half of them later reached the city of Osijek with the rest accommodated in camps set up by the army. A further 800 refugees, including many small children, arrived in the Italian port of Brindisi aboard an aid ship. They will be taken to makeshift camps in northern Italy.

The fall of Vukovar and the continuation of the fighting has increased the difficulties of Franjo Tudjman's government, with the ultra-right Party of Rights quick to seize the political offensive as morale slumps. Ante Džapic, the deputy leader of the Party of Rights' HOS militia, called yesterday for fresh elections in the republic, claiming that the government had forfeited the trust of the people and that its defensive strategy was failing. He called for an all-out offen-

sive saying: "We must take the war to the enemy, to Serbia. When there are hundreds of shells falling on Belgrade we will see how cowardly they really are."

HOS troops have played an important role in the defence of Vukovar and their reputation has grown. They are cleverly extracting maximum propaganda from the defeat in contrast to the government's uneasy silence.

Meanwhile Croatia has suspended the participation of all of its representatives in what is left of the Yugoslav federal government. Stipe Mesic has officially relinquished his post

of chairman of the federal presidency which, now Serbian run, is about to propose a new federal premier. Ante Markovic, the present premier, has been dismissed by the federal chamber of parliament which was attended by fewer than half of the members, exclusively Serbs.

But the European Community demonstrated that it does not recognise the decision by sending the Dutch ambassador to visit Mr Markovic. He said that he would remain in office: "I am performing my duties and the decision of parliament... to remove me is both illegal and illegitimate. I think that I am physically threatened but I will stay on and there is no pressure I would yield under."

The state president may name Stanko Radmilovic as his choice for prime minister; until recently he was Serbian

premier and is one of the hardest opponents of the market economy, privatisation and liberal reforms which Mr Markovic espoused.

The presidency has also demanded that federal institutions be purged of officials who represent republics which wish to secede. This would mean the loss of many ambassadors who are Croats and possibly more who are Macedonians, leaving foreign affairs almost totally in the hands of the Serbs.

At home, the Serbian authorities are becoming increasingly anxious at growing lawlessness in Belgrade. Militant Serb nationalists attacked the Serbian Reformist party headquarters and a group of young demonstrators marched on the independent television station, Jutel, complaining of anti-Serbian propaganda.

British warships 'would fire back'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

YUGOSLAV forces which dared to fire on Royal Navy warships carrying out humanitarian tasks would have to face the consequences, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday. His remarks came as ministers and officials assessed the risks of sending warships to Yugoslavia to help evacuate civilians.

No request for help has yet been made by either the International Red Cross or the United Nations. However, the British government has made it clear that, if required, Royal Navy ships in the Mediterranean will go to Yugoslavia.

The rules of engagement for a naval mission would focus on the right of self defence. Mr King and his advisers are concerned that Royal Navy warships should only become involved if the Yugoslav authorities "fully understand why we are there".

Speaking on radio, Mr King said: "We would not want to put them [British warships] right in the thick of it, but we would want assurances that we are there on a humanitarian mission and would expect a total ceasefire while that was taking place." He added: "We would take it very seriously indeed if this was breached in any way... We are not in a position to take unacceptable risks with our own servicemen, but we would want to do everything we could to help people in such a desperate plight."

Mr King believes that civilian casualties could be more appropriate for evacuating civilians from Dubrovnik. However, the proposal by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, during the Western European Union meeting in Bonn on Monday, to send British warships to Yugoslavia was made at the defence ministry's suggestion, defence sources said yesterday.

Britons corner the market in anxiety attacks on sovereignty

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

IN THE House of Commons, where members debate Europe today and tomorrow, MPs who fear loss of British sovereignty in the EC's Maastricht treaty are making the running. Across the Channel, the muttering is the opposite: many voices complain that Britain is resisting federalism too successfully.

Brussels has its own 20th-century Cassandra, whose predictions appear each day on the desk of every Eurocrat in the city. The pink pages of the English-language edition of *Agence Europe* start with the inimitable editorials of Emmanuele Gazzo, who has recently been in low spirits.

Gazzo, an octogenarian Italian who preaches unreconstructed federal union for Europe, is complaining furiously that Britain is yet again being allowed to get away with stalling a united Europe at Maastricht.

Gazzo may be read by many, but he is not much debated. There is no din of debate raising the roof of continental Europe's parliamentary assemblies. There is argument, but of a different kind and conducted at lower volume.

Britons, relatively content with their own political system, tend to see the EC as a series of open, empirical choices. Can we gain from the 1992 single market? Would the environment policy of Brussels be more enlightened than London's? Although British governments have mostly felt obliged to follow the EC's lead over the past 20 years, public debate still pretends that governments have unrestricted freedom of choice to take or leave what the community offers.

Only Denmark's fierce political debates mirror Britain's. To the immense

irritation of 11 other capitals, the Danish parliament has held up the lifting of the community's light trading sanctions on South Africa for the whole of this year in protest at the community's presumption in trying to dictate Copenhagen's foreign policy.

In the rest of Europe, sovereignty arguments are stifled by history or by EC funds - or are simply over and done with. Postwar politics settled into a comfortable pattern of uncontested commitment to European federalism.

In the six founder states of the community - France, Germany, the Benelux countries and Italy - frontal opposition to European unification is marginalised. Belgium holds a general election this Sunday. EC issues are not in dispute.

Most political classes of Europe take their cues from France and Germany: if Paris and Bonn are quiet, there will be few rumbles in Rome, Luxembourg or

Dublin. The French need to contain German power has always been the fuel driving the EC, but no respectable French politician can voice mistrust of Germany out loud. Fear bred by history can only be expressed in code which dampens argument. The cost of containing Germany has been a loss of sovereignty, but French governments of left and right have convinced voters that the price is worth paying.

For Germany, the EC has long been the route to reacceptance in Europe. Until the fall of the Berlin Wall, any inconvenience visited on Germany by the EC was part of the price for readmission to Western Europe. With a federal state of their own and a past to forget, Germans have been comfortable with plans for European union. Since unification, this consensus has begun to crack and was shattered by the Yugoslav conflict. The German political class is more divided

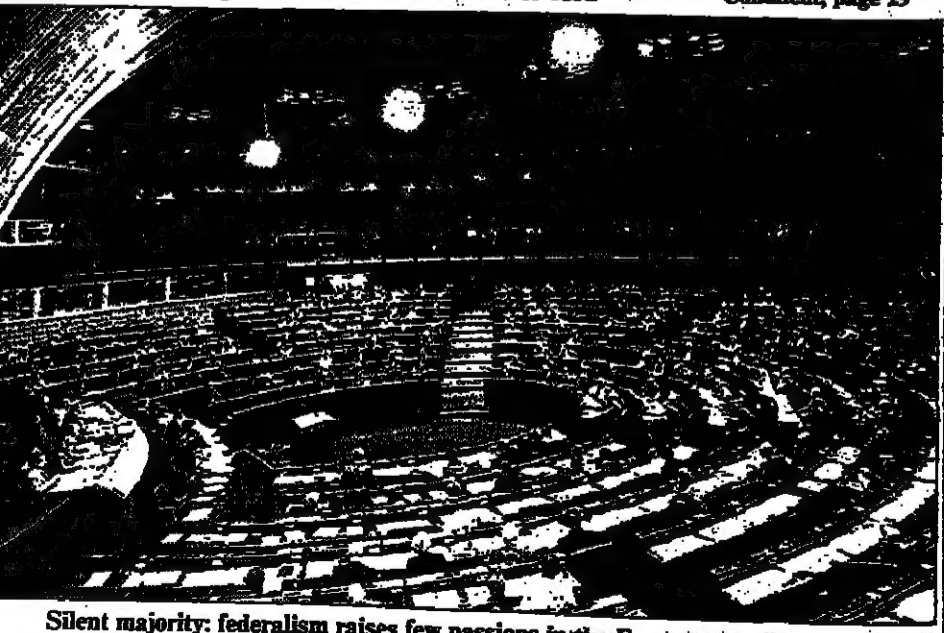
now than it was before. But the German political class is more divided

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than it was before. But the German political class is more divided



Silent majority: federalism raises few passions in the European parliament

Dumas tempers optimism on treaty

By GEORGE BROCK

KEY figures in the last phase of the European Community's Maastricht treaty negotiations expressed cautious optimism yesterday that an accord on political and monetary union could be agreed when the Twelve's leaders meet in three weeks' time.

A senior British official in Brussels said that because negotiations on political union

had progressed so slowly the prospects of reaching deals on all outstanding disputes by December 10 were finely balanced. "The chances of success are not above 50 per cent," he said.

Roland Dumas and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the French and German foreign ministers, emphasised in Paris that it was up to the Franco-German partnership to ensure

that Europe took a decisive step towards integration. But M Dumas added: "I am not blindly optimistic. The stakes are high. Failure would be felt throughout Europe as a cruel blow." Officials are continuing to discuss the treaty, but several issues are now so deadlocked they may only be settled by the EC leaders when they meet in Maastricht. The summit is due to last two days,

but may be extended. Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, who will chair the summit, is due to arrive in London on Friday for talks with John Major aimed at fixing a manageable agenda for Maastricht. At least five issues are rated by British officials as "negotiation-busters". Talks are focused on the EC majority's wish to extend majority voting.

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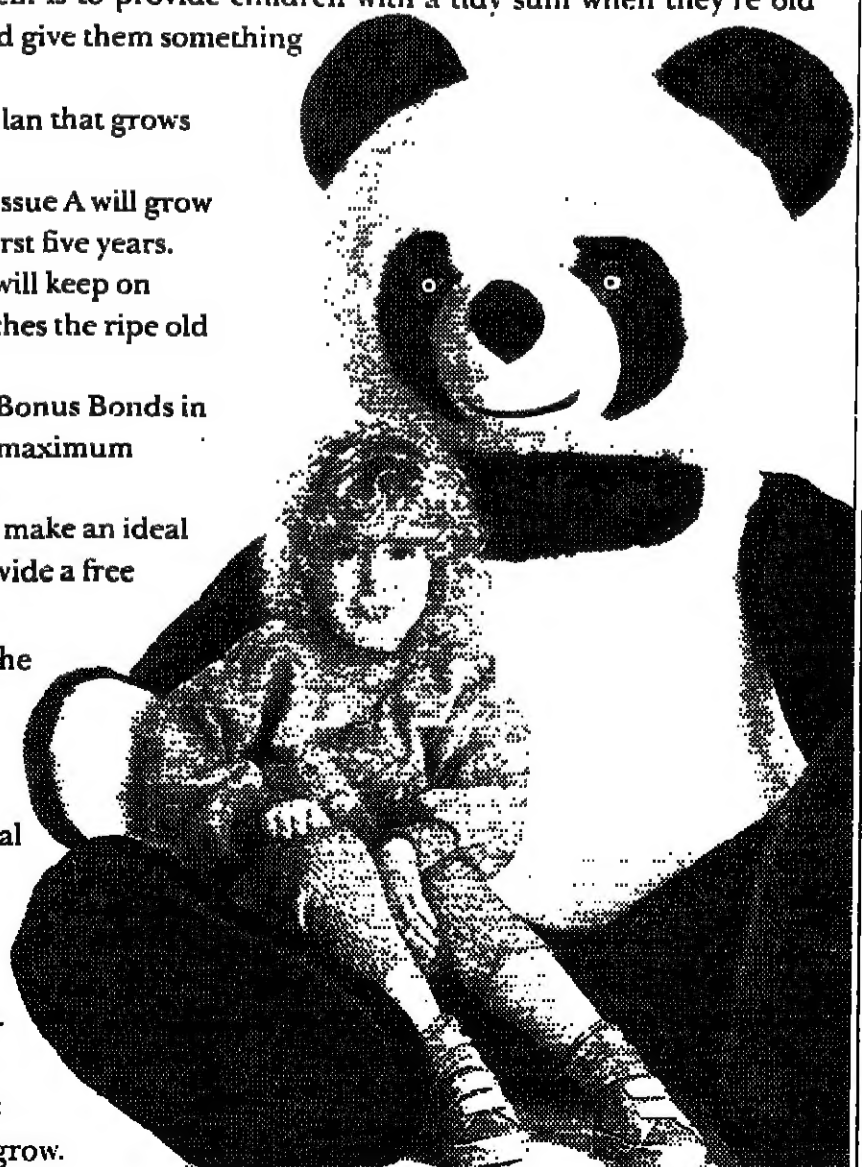
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NATIONAL SAVINGS

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1991

Yeltsin challenges Gorbachev for foreign sympathies

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

HAVING lost much of his domestic political authority and most of his economic power, President Gorbachev is now embroiled in a contest for international opinion. Tomorrow the battle is joined in earnest as Boris Yeltsin sets out on an official visit to Germany — the first Russo-German summit since the Bolshevik revolution.

Hitherto, the opinion of the Western public and its leaders was one of Mr Gorbachev's most reliable bulwarks against domestic weakness, but loyalties have started to shift. Several Western countries have frozen credits. Italy is reviewing existing treaties and Washington has announced that future food aid will go direct to the republics.

Germany was the key to President Gorbachev's successful courtship of Europe. Nowhere else was he hailed with such adulation: no country was more helpful in presenting Moscow's case internationally, and Moscow's agreement to German unification left a sense of obligation. But that is changing. Moscow's cavalier approach to debt repayments — Germany is a leading creditor — and the spiriting away to Moscow of Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, have cooled German ardour. Recently, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, one of Mr Gorbachev's most constant ad-

vocates, visited the Ukraine and Kazakhstan without passing through Moscow.

The Gorbachev and Yeltsin camps are well aware of what is at stake over the next few days. The elusive Boris Nikolaevich has made himself remarkably accessible to the German media, chalking up interviews with German radio, television, *Die Zeit* and *Der Spiegel*. He has also met representatives of Soviet Germans who hope that he will announce, while in Bonn, the re-establishment of an autonomous German region on the Volga — from where the German community was deported by Stalin during the second world war. And he has spoken of Russia's readiness to shoulder Soviet foreign debt.

Mr Gorbachev has been no slouch either. When Mr Yeltsin arrives in Bonn he will see his own face smiling up from current issues of *Die Zeit* and *Der Spiegel*, but *Spiegel's* chief competitor, *Stern*, will have Mr Gorbachev on the front cover. Inside, he speaks of the untold dangers that would follow disintegration of the Union and depicts the Russian president as embattled and surrounded by upstart politicians.

Mr Yeltsin hopes that Germany might decide to deal more with Russia as a fully fledged state and less with the Union. His first success was to have the visit recognised as such, with all the trappings —

guard of honour, reception and talks with Helmut Kohl, the chancellor. He has more than a say in Soviet loan repayments to offer Bonn — a say, for instance, in the emotive matter of Herr Honecker.

The contest to decide Herr Honecker's future is reaching fever pitch in Moscow and the outcome is a touchstone of the prevailing balance of power. The Russian government — with more than an eye on German public opinion — says that it will expel him (though it does not say to where) on strictly legal grounds. Herr Honecker, it says, entered Russia illegally and has no right to stay. The Gorbachev team, glancing towards domestic opinion and fearful former communists, insists self-righteously that legality must be tempered with morality.

Eight Soviet ambassadors, including Leonid Zamyatin who is Moscow's man in London, have been replaced by President Gorbachev in a decision apparently directed at senior diplomats who came under fire for their behaviour during the abortive August coup (Bruce Clark writes). Ambassadors to Ireland, Sweden, France, Greece, the European Community, Guinea-Bissau and Chile are also affected.



Show of support: Czechoslovak pupils demonstrating for President Havel's measures to bolster the presidency's power and end deadlock in talks on the country's future. They were among 15,000 students at a rally in Prague yesterday.

At Prague's technical college some 10,000 students came out in support of Mr Havel and 5,000 students gathered in Wenceslas Square, the site of the rallies which toppled communist rule two years ago (Reuter reports from

Prague). Mr Havel said last weekend that Czechoslovakia was paralysed by disputes over Slovak separatism and the drafting of new federal and regional constitutions. He called on the public to put pressure on politicians to help keep the country together.

In a televised appeal on Sunday he asked for extra powers to prevent Czechoslovakia from breaking up and urged the people to demand a referendum. The federal parliament last week blocked attempts to hold a plebiscite,

asking Czechs and Slovaks whether they wished to continue living in a common state. Mr Havel proposed five new laws to enable him to call a referendum without parliament's consent, dissolve the federal assembly and rule by decree until a general election.

His proposals have won widespread public support. An opinion poll published yesterday showed most Czechs and Slovaks in favour. But most parties in parliament say the new laws have little chance of being passed.

US aid will go to Soviet republics

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration is planning to give the Soviet Union up to \$1.5 billion (£850 million) in additional food aid to tide it over the winter, and intends for the first time to provide the support directly to the 12 republics. White House officials said yesterday.

The administration is still seeking cast-iron assurances that the republics will accept responsibility for repaying loans to buy American grain, and a formal announcement is not expected until the end of the month. Such an announcement would be a landmark in US-Soviet relations, however. By entering into direct economic agreements with the republics, the administration would be publicly acknowledging the transfer of power from President Gorbachev's central government. One of the administration's leading Soviet experts said Mr Gorbachev was "trying to hold together something increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to hold together".

Almost all the \$1.5 billion would be in the form of loan guarantees to enable the republics to buy American grain, but would also include about \$25 million in direct humanitarian aid and technical help with food production and distribution. Several weeks ago, Mr Gorbachev asked for \$3.5 billion in American aid. President Bush has been criticised for his slow response.

MOSCOW NOTEBOOK by Mary Dejevsky

Journalists turn to cheque mates

Chequebook journalism may be increasingly frowned upon in Britain, but in Moscow it is flourishing. Rubles, of course, won't get you far, but dollars and pounds will "buy" anything from exclusive interviews with certain senior officials to tailored-made trips to the Gulag (return ticket included). According to the now independent Tass, journalists are charged hundreds of dollars to visit the Gulag, with additional payments

The Soviet media are going through a particularly chaotic phase at present. In that, they are a true reflection of the country as a whole. Even before the August coup, the Soviet television ended when the backward-looking evening news programme, *Vremya*, which invariably screened next day's weather forecast to the strains of *Yesterday*, stopped calling its viewers comrades. The abolition of *Vremya* was one of the first acts of the post-coup television supremo, Yegor Yakovlev. He put it out to tender, Soviet-style.

For several weeks, two competing teams prepared and presented the programme, with the viewers voting for the one they preferred. One team consisted of former *Vremya* staff, the other of staff from the popular late night news programme. The result was a shambles. Unexplained film clips preceded incomprehensible news stories. Many items gave no information, even about the basic what, when and where? Before, such lapses might have been blamed on censorship, but not any more.

Now the competition is over and the original *Vremya* team has been declared the winner. Even as the victory was announced, however, the programme's editor was asked to pack his bags. Now the staff are threatening to strike for better pay and work facilities.



for interviews with the inmates.

Since the August coup there have been denials all round that money had anything to do with how transcripts of police interviews with the coup plotters found their way to the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, but correspondents who have approached Russian officials for interviews since the coup have found money rearing its head. Something to do with the need to improve office accommodation, it is usually said.

Demirel to head Turkish coalition

From ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

SULEYMAN Demirel, leader of the Turkish True Path party, signed an agreement here yesterday which will take his conservative organisation into coalition with the Social Democratic Populist party led by Erdal Inönü. The new administration will offer a dramatic programme of social reforms in exchange for the economic austerity necessary to control Turkey's high annual inflation rate, running at more than 70 per cent.

Although it is a month since Turkey went to the polls, observers have been startled by the progress made during the past eight days of intensive talks between the two parties. An apparent breakdown in discussions turned out to be nothing more than last-minute horse-trading. As a result, the Social Democratic Populist party, which came third in the October election, is expected to get 12 of the 32 posts,



Demirel: a phenomenal comeback at 68

including that of foreign minister, when the cabinet is announced today. Together, the two parties will have a working majority in the new assembly of some 40 deputies. Mr Demirel, aged 68, becomes prime minister for the seventh time in a phenomenal comeback for a man overthrown twice by the military.

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Ali Mahdi's clan battles to keep power in Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

FIGHTING continued yesterday in sections of Mogadishu, the Somali capital, a day after President Ali Mahdi Muhammad was reportedly overthrown by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, his chief rival, according to aid workers in the city.

The fighting appeared contained in the capital's north-western corner, where President Ali Mahdi has a home and which is traditionally a stronghold of his Abgal clan. "It would suggest that Ali Mahdi is not as finished as they say he is," a source said.

The whereabouts of the president remained unknown, although sources said there were unconfirmed reports that he had fled to Warsciek, a village about 20 miles north of the capital which is controlled by the Abgal, who are a subgroup of Somalia's Hawiye tribe. Somalia is alone in Africa in having citizens all of the same religion and tribe and speaking the same language. General Aidid, however, belongs to the Habar Gedir subclan.

Some reports yesterday said that Mr Ali Mahdi was massing troops north of Mogadishu to try to reverse the takeover by General Aidid. Somali movements in Nairobi said he could count on up to 10,000 volunteers for a counter-offensive on the capital which, they claimed, was now controlled almost entirely by General Aidid's forces.

But Mr Ayweed Haji Yusuf, a minister of state in Mr Ali Mahdi's government, insisted that the president, far from having fled the country as General Aidid claimed on Monday, still controlled 80 per cent of Mogadishu and continued to occupy his residence in the centre of the city.

"We are in control of Radio Mogadishu, and also we are in control of the airport," he said. But aid agencies reported that they were negotiating directly with General Aidid to bring in urgent supplies of food, medicines and extra medical staff to handle the upsurge in casualties.

Mr Yusuf said he had tried to negotiate peacefully with General Aidid but the rebel leader had overruled attempts by members of his council to reach a negotiated settlement to the fighting. General Aidid, aged 60, has refused to recognise Mr Ali Mahdi, aged 52, who in turn has tried to have the general Aidid removed as chairman of the United So-

mal Congress. Mr Ali Mahdi has been president since January, when the congress ended President Mohamed Siad Barre's 21-year rule in a month of heavy fighting in Mogadishu. He failed, however, to gain control of the whole of Somalia.

Southern Somalia remains split by feuding among clans which have carved the region into separate fiefdoms.

Northern Somalia seceded as the Somaliland Republic in May and has established peace. But heavy fighting broke out between the two factions in Mogadishu in September, when aid workers say an estimated 500 people were killed and 1,500 wounded.

The rival groups in Mogadishu are reported to have used heavy artillery and mortars in this week's fighting. Relief workers there said hundreds of people were killed and wounded, but no official figures were available. The International Committee of the Red Cross said that it had appealed to the warring sides to allow humanitarian work to continue.

The airport was reported to have reopened late yesterday, and some relief agencies working in Mogadishu temporarily withdrew some of their staff from the city until the fighting stopped. Italy evacuated its diplomatic staff after its embassy was destroyed in the fighting, sources said.

It was not immediately possible to get comment from Italian officials in Nairobi. Earlier this month, General Aidid accused the Italians of being too close to Mr Ali Mahdi and asked them to keep out of Somali affairs.



Knife point: an arrested Palestinian girl, aged 16, watches an Israeli border policeman reporting her alleged stabbing attempt of an east Jerusalem colleague

Husain issues ultimatum on settlements

Jordan believes Israel should freeze building in the occupied territories to help peace, writes Christopher Walker

KING Husain yesterday said that Arab delegates would walk out of the American and Soviet-backed Middle East peace process unless there was a rapid halt to the building of Jewish settlements on all land overrun by Israel in 1967.

The Jordanian king delivered what amounted to an ultimatum as discussions were intensifying to finalise the date and venue for the second round of the talks, due to open within the next fortnight. He said that Washington would be the ideal compromise venue.

"We need to have a freeze on new settlements as soon as possible, almost immediately, otherwise the whole thing is really threatened very, very seriously," the Sandhurst-educated Hashemite monarch said in an interview. "If the construction of settlements in

the occupied territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights, continues it really makes the whole thing not only unrealistic, but totally unacceptable."

King Husain was speaking as Jordanian, Palestinian and Syrian delegates to the talks, which began three weeks ago in Madrid, opened meetings in Amman designed to co-ordinate the Arab position in advance of the face-to-face talks between Arabs and Jews behind closed doors. The monarch, regarded by Washington as the most moderate of the Arab leaders involved in the peace process and its most enthusiastic supporter,

declared: "The whole discussion is over peace. To continue to build settlements is really a threat to the very process and could easily lead to the destruction of what has been achieved so far. My feeling is that Madrid was a very good start."

His warning comes after Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has repeatedly refused to contemplate any settlement freeze in advance of the bilateral negotiations, claiming such a step would prejudice Israel's bargaining position. And since the Madrid talks, Israel has inaugurated a Golan settlement. The argument of Mr Shamir and

other hardliners in the Jerusalem cabinet is that to halt settlements now would weaken the Israeli case that it has rights to the land seized in 1967 which it refers to as Eretz Israel, a Hebrew term meaning the biblical land of Israel.

Doing little to disguise uncharacteristic anger and frustration, the monarch referred indirectly to mounting criticism which he and other Arab leaders have faced from Muslim fundamentalists opposed to the action of talking with Israel.

His remarks, which followed similar sentiments voiced by Palestinian leaders, were seen by diplomats as raising a serious threat to the future of the peace process. "James Baker [the American Secretary of State] has already tried to persuade the Israelis to stop building," said one

European envoy. "It is not clear how much further he can twist their arms."

Despite the offer by Moscow to host the talks between Israel and Syria, Israel and Lebanon and Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, King Husain was keen on Washington because of its superior facilities and on-the-spot support from the Bush administration to keep up the momentum of the peace process. He was critical of the dispute over location, begun when Israel called for the second round of talks to alternate between the Jewish state and the various Arab countries. "It is not realistic at this moment to contemplate anything of the sort," the king said.

Aside from the settlements issue, the king was muted in his criticism of Israel. But he attacked the action of the Jordan Press Association in blacklisting Sultan Hattab, a leading Jordanian columnist, for giving a four-minute interview to Israeli television at Madrid, which was termed as speaking with "the Zionist enemy". "I am extremely upset with this and I am going to discuss it with the people concerned. We are enjoying democracy but I do not think this is a very democratic approach," the king said.

"When we are working on a peace process, we have to break barriers, we have to reach people. We have to project our arguments to them to reassure them and to create and generate an atmosphere for peace." He added: "I do not see anything wrong in what Mr Hattab did."

UFO brings down-to-earth anxieties

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN UNIDENTIFIED object is heading towards the Earth and is expected to fly past early next month, astronomers say. They are unsure whether the object is a new type of asteroid, or a rocket casing from an old Saturn 5 that shot past the Moon and is now on its way back. They are confident, however, that it is going to miss.

The object was found by James Scotti of Arizona University on November 6 using a 36in telescope at the Kitt Peak observatory. The telescope is used to provide advance

warning of asteroids that are on a collision course with the Earth. A growing number of astronomers believe that collisions in the past have shaped the Earth's history, such as the extinction of dinosaurs, and say the risks of future catastrophes should be taken seriously.

If Dr Scotti's object is an asteroid, it is, at 30ft across, one of the smallest ever seen. The suspicion that it might be the upper stage of a Saturn 5 arises because its orbit is unlike the three known types of asteroid known to come close to the Earth.

"Unless the military knows and isn't saying, we don't know what it

is," says Brian Marsden, director of the International Astronomical Union's central bureau for astronomical telegrams. The existence of the object, given the name 1991VG, was reported in one of the union's telegrams last week.

Calculations show that the object will fly within 290,000 miles of the Earth at about 10am or 11am GMT on December 5, approaching from the far southern hemisphere. Only one asteroid has ever been observed flying closer to Earth — a 30ft piece of rock that passed within 106,000 miles on 15 January this year. That was less than half the distance to the Moon and was considered a near-

miss. Mark Bailey, from the astronomy department at Manchester University, says that if the object collided with Earth, it would make a 150ft-wide crater.

In a separate development, NASA yesterday called off the launch of the Atlantis space shuttle after finding a fault in the military satellite it was scheduled to deploy. The £176 million satellite is designed to spot attacks from strategic and tactical missiles by using an infra-red telescope and sensors. The launch was planned for late last night from the Kennedy space centre, Florida. Yesterday's announcement grounded the six-man crew indefinitely.

Moi dismisses minister linked to Ouko murder

By SAM KILEY

AS THE enquiry into the death of Robert Ouko, Kenya's late foreign minister, draws to a close, Kenya's political scene is being treated to a political thriller which could bring down their government. The latest chapter brought a minister's dismissal yesterday.

Copies of the local papers in Nairobi which carry verbatim reports on the enquiry are sold out before lunchtime as the people read fresh revelations from John Troon, the former Scotland Yard detective who was called to Kenya by President Moi to investigate the death of Ouko. Mr Troon appears in the Kisumu courtroom in pinstripes and delivers his evidence in the firm manner of a man well used to the Old Bailey. On Monday he named Mr Moi's closest confidante, Nicholas Biwott, the minister of industry, and a member of the president's personal staff, as his prime suspects in Ouko's murder. Mr Moi yesterday dismissed Mr Biwott.

On his arrival in Kenya last year, Mr Troon was told by Cleophas Okoko, the deputy director of the criminal investigation department, that Ouko committed suicide a mile from his home. Mr Okoko insisted that the foreign minister sustained a broken ankle in his rush to the spot where he had chosen to die and "hopped all the way" to where his body was found. Mr Ouko then doused himself with diesel, lit the fuel, and before the flames engulfed him, shot himself in the head.



Ouko: was compiling a high-level corruption report when he was murdered 21 months ago

and deceit which could ruin the careers of several senior political figures in Kenya.

Ouko, Mr Troon said, was preparing a report on cabinet-level corruption for President Moi. He had taken a particular interest in the bidding process for the refurbishment of a molasses factory in Kisumu. According to letters revealed at the enquiry from the Italian-Swiss consultancy firm BAK to a legal firm close to President Moi, Mr Biwott, then energy minister, had allegedly demanded 10 per cent of the cost of the molasses project for himself. So, allegedly, had George Saitoti, Kenya's vice-president. Elijah Mwangale, the agriculture minister, and Dalmas Otieno, the then minister of industry and now employment minister, through intermediaries, including Muhammad Aslam, the Pan African Bank group head who died last weekend.

Witnesses interviewed by

Mr Troon were regularly arrested for "rumour mongering" and allegedly tortured by members of the Kenyan special branch. Mr Troon was also threatened by the Nyanza provincial commissioner and advised to abandon his murder investigations.

Ouko was last seen alive on 12 February, 1990. Four days later his charred and battered remains were found by the local police with a single bullet through the brain. Ouko's corruption report and other papers were missing.

Chief among Mr Troon's suspects as the possible organiser of the murder is Hezekiah Oyugi, President Moi's former permanent secretary in charge of security, who has recently been appointed executive chairman of General Motors Kenya. He, allegedly, was unable to account for his presence in Kisumu on February 13, the day Ouko died.

De Klerk and Botha dodge flak for reform

FROM GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

WHO was responsible for dismantling apartheid? Not I, says P.W. Botha, the former South African president, who is threatening to publish a transcript of a conversation he had with Nelson Mandela in prison two years ago to prove his point.

President de Klerk says he launched the reform process, but as a logical consequence of what his predecessor initiated. Past and present National party leaders are embroiled in a public row over who should assume the responsibility, rather than take the credit, for the consequences.

Some delegates at the recent party congress in Transvaal tried to shift some responsibility for the political instability to the previous administration. The rumblings of discontent reached Mr Botha, who promptly asked Mr de Klerk to furnish him with a recording of his chat with Mr Mandela, now president of the African National Congress, in July 1989.

Unfortunately, the evidence is missing. The national intelligence service, to whom Mr Botha surrendered the tape on his retirement six weeks after the prison meeting, says mysteriously it destroyed the tape because could have been "an embarrassment".

When Neil Barnard, the director of national intelligence, visited Mr Botha last week, he was confronted by an angry man demanding that he initial and sign minutes of the meeting with Mr Mandela as being an authentic record of the proceedings. The former president is now threatening to make public this document.

Helping Lesotho, page 26

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

English National Opera seeks applications for the post of Music Director to succeed Mark Elder when he leaves the Company in July 1993.

The Music Director is responsible for the musical leadership of Britain's only full-time repertory opera company and is also expected to act as the Chief Conductor of ENO and its orchestra. The Music Director will work closely with the General Director in shaping ENO's future artistic strategy.

Candidates should apply in writing to Peter Jones, General Director, English National Opera, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES. Letters should be marked 'personal and confidential'. Applications must be received by Monday 2 December.

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seeks applications for a Deputy House Manager for six months, beginning mid February 1992. The successful candidate will assist the House Manager in the day to day running of the theatre and undertake front of house duties during the 1992 Festival (2 May - 23 July).

He or she will most likely have relevant experience as a F.O.H. Manager and will be expected to live locally. Salary and terms negotiable. Applications in writing with full CV to be received no later than 16 December to: Linda McCarthy, House Manager, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Lanes, East Sussex EN9 5DU

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How is car advertising coping with the worst recession in years? Andrew Lycett asks a panel of experts

Driven to woo a new market

A new advertising campaign — for the Rover 800 series — hit Britain's television screens last night in the sought-after *News At Ten* break. One of the advertisements, produced by BSB Dorland and shown in all television areas except London, shows fish swimming inside the car, the message being that the seal of the doors is so precise that the water cannot seep out.

Rover is stressing technical excellence as it struggles to win customers in one of the toughest recessions the motor industry has known. This year, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, new car sales will be down more than 20 per cent, from 2 million in 1990 to an estimated 1.6 million.

Also down is the advertising spend. Financial outlay on car advertisements raced ahead in the 1980s, reaching £295 million in 1990, but now the glamour which used to be associated with car commercials has gone. Instead, manufacturers have tried to put across messages of safety and environmental friendliness.

As Robin Wight, of the advertising agency WCRS, emphasises, they have needed to extend their traditional markets. But in today's straitened economic circumstances, the underlying theme has often been simply price competitiveness.

Consequently, as some of our panel suggest, motor advertising, particularly on television, is rather undistinguished at the moment.



Hoping for a sales performance from safety: advertisements for (left) BMW and Rover emphasise — artistically, of course — the new selling points

GERARD HASTINGS

Director, Advertising Research Unit, University of Strathclyde

SIR HAL MILLER

Chief executive, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

ROBIN WIGHT

Chairman of WCRS, advertising agency for BMW

STEPHEN BAYLEY

Motoring correspondent, *GQ* magazine

JANICE CAVE

Editor, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents magazine

PAUL JACKSON

Director, BSB Dorland, advertising agency for Rover

AM trying to get motor manufacturers together to develop a marketing theme. The idea is to look forward, make the car more civilised, more acceptable, more desirable in society. In news-paper advertisements I have seen a much clearer educational slant, with the emphasis on safety. But safety has not been selling cars very well. On television, the aim has clearly been to get a purchase decision. Current TV advertisements reflect the depressed state of the car market.

OUR current campaigns for BMW are designed to reach people who do not normally pay attention to car advertisements, and that has meant altering the balance from newspapers to 20-second slots on television. As for the other manufacturers, Volvo seems to be trying to reach people it does not normally reach. The latest Astra campaign is disappointing and Mercedes seems only to be selling an automotive dinosaur in its advertisements for the S-class. In a recession, the trick is not to fall around.

CURRENT car advertisements have less style and less authority, even if the best have more humanity. Audi signalled the change with references to family life and safety. Other manufacturers, starting at a scary equation where supply is much greater than demand, are getting increasingly shrill in their claims to enlightened attitudes to corporate responsibilities. Ford's "Everything we do is driven by you" is desperate special pleading. The recession has not been stimulating for car advertising.

OUR problem at *Care on the Road* (the RoSPA magazine) tends to be with printed advertisements. One we are concerned about is the Peugeot 205 GTI advertisement which shows a car racing ahead of another one, and the message is that it stuffs the opposition. The last television advertisement people complained to us about, from Ford, showed a tractor pulling out in front of a car with an automatic braking system. The message seemed to be that you could belt along and the ABS would protect you in all circumstances.

IN THE run-up to the new registrations in August, many manufacturers ran advertisements stressing their discounts. This was one thing we rigorously avoided doing. For the new Rover 800 our strategy has been to emphasise its precision-built elegance and ease of handling. Generally, the consumer's focus has changed from performance to other factors such as safety, comfort and prestige. On some marques, however, the consumer is being encouraged to look at cost to the exclusion of anything else.

Money where their mouth is

Birmingham's newspaper MBO is the latest in a journalistic trend

After months of meticulous finance and planning meetings the biggest management buy-out in newspaper history is now in place in Birmingham, with a journalist as chief executive.

Are the financiers, the banks and the accountants mad? The prevailing image of the journalist is that of power without responsibility. Surely putting a journalist in charge of the business is akin to inviting the lunatics to take over the asylum?

And yet this morning Chris Oakley will drive from his home in the Birmingham suburbs to his office at Midland Newspapers Ltd

with a £125 million price tag providing all the incentive he needs to turn around a newspaper publishing company suffering from the universal ills facing his industry.

After a costly re-design sales of the *Birmingham Post*, the morning newspaper, rose to 31,783 — a pale reflection of its historic sales figure — and by June were down to 26,231.

Sales of the evening paper, the *Mail*, fell from 230,221 in January to 209,517 in June. The Sunday paper, the *Mercury*, has performed well: in June it had sales of 160,115, a total of 9,000 over its January figure.

Mr Oakley is as acquainted with the arcane mysteries of research, of audience targeting and of socio-economic groupings as he is with all the other ingredients which make up a successful newspaper. His deep

knowledge of the economics and the business strategy required is said to have impressed the financial backers.

Ralph Ingersoll, the US publisher who owned what was before Birmingham Post and Mail before its name change, finally agreed to sell to the management buy-out team after prolonged negotiations with rival bidders. The deal is

financed by venture capital group Candover along with CINVEN, the Bank of Scotland and the Intermediate Capital Group.

Some factors are beyond Mr Oakley's control, like the economy. He faces the stiffest of competition, but it is high time that journalists accepted the logic of their situation and started running newspapers instead of proclaiming in the pub their innate ability to do so. Now that is power without responsibility.

TONY LOYNES

The author is editor of *UK Press Gazette*



A must for diplomats: a recent issue of the *Tehran Times*

CHRISTOPHER WALKER

"It is widely known that

Leader warns Muslim women on West issues

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DANCE

Why choreography must be colour-blind

The new collaboration between the Royal Ballet and the Dance Theatre of Harlem will make history at Covent Garden tonight. Debra Craine reports

Tonight, when Darcey Bussell steps onto the Covent Garden stage with Eddie Shelman, the occasion will mark more than just the start of another ballet partnership. It will also be a breakthrough for multi-racial casting in the Royal Ballet. Bussell is white and Shelman is black: the first time black and white have danced together as a duo in Covent Garden's resident ballet company.

That the occasion should even warrant a mention indicates that, for whatever reason, the Royal Ballet has in effect operated a colour barrier. Perhaps white exclusivity in European classical ballet was once understandable in aesthetic terms, where visual uniformity in a corps de ballet of 32 swans was the ideal, but it is certainly out of date today. Now, more than 30 years after American classical companies tackled the race question, Britain's biggest ballet company is finally acting to overcome the colour-coded elitism of its heritage.

The first chance to see black dancers perform with the Royal came last Christmas when Christina Johnson and Ronald Perry of the Dance Theatre of Harlem appeared as guest artists in *The Nutcracker*. Their debut was followed two months later by the announcement that the Royal Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem were to embark on a joint initiative that would see Harlem principals as regular guests at Covent Garden.

At the same time, a new education project, *A Chance to Dance*, was launched by both companies to find and train talented children from all ethnic backgrounds in Britain. In the long term, the idea was to encourage children from all backgrounds to become ballet dancers and enable the Royal to reflect the multi-racial nature of British society through the multi-racial lineup of its roster.

According to Anthony Dowell, the Royal's director, the problem has been the elitism of Covent Garden. "I think that for ethnic minorities the Opera House has even more of an establishment aura than it does for most of the white population that it still keeps away. We are trying to make it more accessible for both black and white."

The Harlem troupe has been making ballet more accessible ever since Arthur

Mitchell founded it 22 years ago. "Initially we were an all-black company but as artists we have disproven the theory that blacks can't dance ballet," he says. "The art form transcends race, class, creed and colour. It was natural evolution that our company should itself become multi-racial."

Helping to herald the arrival of multi-racial casting at Covent Garden is Eddie Shelman, one of the leading dancers in the New York company. He is partnering Darcey Bussell in *Agon*, the one-act ballet Balanchine choreographed to Stravinsky's score in 1957. Coincidentally, the Royal is returning

'I am not carrying a banner. That blacks can do ballet was proven 20 years ago. But I do feel I've a responsibility as a role model.'

to the choreographer's original intention by casting a black man and a white woman in the pas de deux. Balanchine created the work for Arthur Mitchell and Diana Adams of New York City Ballet, consciously highlighting the contrast in their skin colours.

"From what I hear Mr Mitchell had a hard time performing with a white woman because the audience wasn't used to black-white relationships on stage," says Shelman. "Because *Agon* can be very sensual, people sometimes have a problem with the black-white relationship. They see how blatant it is, how he gets to hold her, how he gets to hug her, and how he gets into all these positions with her and they think 'who does this black man think he is?'"

"In the United States it was not roses in the Fifties. That was a big statement which Mr Balanchine made by putting a black man on stage with a white woman. Obviously today's audience won't have

the same problem. I think they will be open to it."

Shelman grew up in New York in the Sixties where his only exposure to dance was the creative movement classes his mother sent him to as a child. Only at the age of 15, when he was accepted into New York's High School of the Performing Arts, did he begin ballet training. The same year he saw his first ballet performance and was hooked: "It was Maurice Béjart and they were doing *Nijinsky, Clown of God*. The things that the men were doing were absolutely incredible and that's when I decided I wanted to be a ballet dancer. It appealed to me because it was so athletic."

As a teenager, Shelman believed his race was an issue. "I didn't realise it because I never thought about it. But my mother had to fight for me to stay in the ballet department, because the Performing Arts High School wanted to keep me in modern dance."

In 1975 Shelman was hired by Mitchell and has been with Dance Theatre of Harlem ever since. In America, Shelman does not feel race is a problem for ballet dancers any more. "I haven't yet seen a black Siegfried and a white Odette but I don't believe black dance is an issue. I am black but I rarely hear anything about being black. I'm a ballet dancer."

"I am not carrying a banner on behalf of blacks in ballet. I don't think I have to, because the fact that blacks can do ballet was proven 20 years ago. But I definitely feel I have a responsibility to be a role model to young black kids."

Dowell hopes Shelman, along with the other Harlem guests this season, will act as examples that may inspire black children in this country to take up dancing. He also looks forward to the day when the company can welcome a steady flow of Royal Ballet School graduates from all ethnic backgrounds, trained to the Royal's standards and in its style.

"Yes, I can see a day when we have a black Siegfried and a white Odette in *Swan Lake* together," he adds. "It's what they can give on stage as artists that's important."

Agon is at the Royal Opera House (071-240 1066) tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm.



A breakthrough in multi-racial casting: Darcey Bussell and Eddie Shelman in rehearsal for *Agon*

Uncloistered at last, the Trollope lovers gather

Like many of his fellow-devotees, Professor N. John Hall (known as "Jack") exhibits the familiar symptoms. There is the glint in the eye, the hushed voice and the many references to "Glencora", "Josiah", "Crawley" and "Melmotte". Here, in short, is a man with a severe case of Trollope fever. He will be in good company tonight, when members of the Trollope Society gather for champagne in London to mark the news that the Victorian author is finally to be admitted to Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey. Heading the list of members will be John Major, who lent his name to the campaign to win over the Abbey authorities. Appropriately, he will be presented with a specially bound copy of the Palliser novel, *The Prime Minister*.

Jack Hall might seem an unconventional member of the Trollope brotherhood. Arguably the world's leading Trollope scholar, he is a 58-year-old New Yorker who teaches in the Bronx; a world away from the fictional cloisters of Barchester. Tonight's event will also be a celebration for his new biography, the

Clive Davis meets the American scholar Jack Hall (right), in London for today's celebration of an eminent Victorian reputation restored



third such study in three years. A fourth — by Victoria Glendinning — is to follow shortly.

"For a long while there was a prejudice against Trollope in academia," Hall says. "But in the past 15 years he has gained a foothold. Critics and academics are finally catching up with the so-called common reader, who knew a good thing all along. Trollope has always had a lot of readers, but they tended to keep quiet about it. Sometimes you would meet someone in the lift who would be carrying one of the novels, and you would say, 'Ah, so you read him too?'. It was somewhat like a secret society. Now, people don't have to be shy about speaking out."

Hall is a professor of English at the Bronx Community College, part of the City University of New York. Most of his work consists of an introduction to 20th century literature. However, he serves up the ale and roast beef of Trollope at the University's graduate school in Manhattan.

His passion took root just over two decades ago when he was carrying out research into the manuscript of the early and previously unpublished non-fiction work, *The New Zealander*. Later, when he was hooked on the novels, Hall realised that Trollope was one of the few leading Victorian authors that had yet to be put through the academic mill. Since then Hall's works have included a massive, two-volume collection of the author's correspondence. It won generous acclaim, surviving a memorable broadside from Jonathan Raban, himself a confirmed Trollopean: "Trollope's letters are duller than those of any major writer, of any century, in any language," he wrote. "They are so superlatively dull that they qualify as one of the wonders of the literary world. For long stretches, they have all the intrinsic interest of old gas bills or the sort of circulars that begin 'Dear Barclaycard-holder'."

Trollope's novels them-

selves, all 47 of them, seldom provoke such an extreme response. One of the author's great virtues, according to Hall, is consistency: "If we were talking about Thackeray, no one would say that *The Virginians* was his best novel, or that *Romola* was George Eliot's, or *Barnaby Rudge* was Dickens's. But with Trollope people have all sorts of choices. Many will select one of the Barchester or Palliser novels; others will make a case for *The Way We Live Now* or one that is not so well known, like *Is He Popenjoy?*"

In the past fortnight many a newspaper columnist has been quoting from *The Way We Live Now*, noting the parallels between the principal character, the financier Augustus Melmotte, and the late Robert Maxwell. Hall will not comment on that. But what of the awkward matter of Trollope's alleged anti-Semitism? Both Melmotte and Ferdinand Lopez — the anti-hero in *The Prime Minister* — are commonly regarded as unsavoury Jewish stereotypes, though the novelist is vague about their ethnic origins.

Hall devotes barely two pages to the issue. Like Richard Mullen, who published his biography of Trollope last year, Hall believes that the accusation does not stand up to scrutiny. He points out, for example, that one of Trollope's lesser-known novels, *Nina Balata*,

contains a clear condemnation of anti-Semitism, while in *The Way We Live Now* the portrayal of Melmotte is balanced by the honest banker Ezekiel Bregberi.

Are there any clues in Trollope's correspondence? Hall recalls only one suspect line, concerning a publisher who had "proved himself a Jew at last".

"You can say anything about Trollope," says Hall, "but you can't make generalisations until you have read a lot of him. That line in the letters is one of those phrases which prey terribly upon us today. But sadly, that sort of comment was common in those days."

With the biography out of his system, Hall is looking forward to reading Trollope for recreation. "When I finished my graduate studies on him, many years ago, I thought 'Well, he may not be the best of Victorian novelists, but he's the most readable.' Now I think he may be, well..." He stops in mid-sentence: academics are not supposed to indulge in league tables. But his point is clear enough.

Trollope: A Biography by N. John Hall is published by Oxford University Press at £25.

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Stomping on with our Jane

LAST night's *Without Walls* (Channel 4) sounded quite promising, in theory. Take two rather different cultural icons — Jane Austen and the Doc Marten boot — and dredge up the associations that define them in our minds. Thus, Jane Austen is redolent of neck-tattoos, while Doc Martens remind you of rosebud porcelain and Regency wallpaper — or is it the other way around?

Anyway, in part one Fay Weldon was to tell us how Jane Austen's reputation had been hijacked by the wrong people: while in part two, the impact of thick-soled footwear in youth-culture was to be rendered clear. Why was it all so confusing, then? Perhaps because both pieces forgot to mention the gist of the viewpoint they had to offer.

The normal practice with the *J'accuse* slot (to which Fay Weldon's piece contributes) is for critics to stand up and say that they honestly cannot stick *Coronation Street* or *Virginia Woolf* as a viewpoint which they then justify with argument and expert witnesses who

agree with them. By the end of the programme, then, a case has usually been built up, and over the topped icon stands a tired but happy critic. Usually, it seems to have been a therapeutic experience.

Unfortunately, Fay Weldon was so disinclined to simplify her position that I found myself often muttering "Whose side are you on, exactly?" — an unusual development for a polemical programme. Perhaps the very Weldon smile was off-putting: certainly she gave the general impression of being tongue-in-cheek — so that, even had it been possible to discern a clear argument, it would have been a toss-up whether she really meant it. To top it all, she called lucid witnesses whose

point she then promptly undermined, leaving the viewer flailing for a foothold. The Doc Marten piece that followed was a silly throw-away item which dealt with a humdrum object about which there is little general curiosity (let's face it), and then tried to elevate its significance by suggesting that it is not as simple as it looks. For example: the Doc Marten makes people look tough, but on the other hand it transcends aggression. It is always the same, yet interestingly it is always different. Good grief.

Footage of famous Doc Marten-wearers (Gary Glitter, Madness and Sinead O'Connor) was interspersed with jump-cut talking heads, while the thin history of the bover-

Emmy hopes

OF THE 18 television programmes nominated for this year's International Emmy Awards in the United States, ten are from Britain. They are: *The Black Velvet Gown* (Tyne Tees) and *The World of Eddie Weary* (Yorkshire) for drama; *Cambodia: The Betrayal* (Central) for documentary; *Damned in the USA* (Channel 4), *Naked Hollywood: Funny For Money* (BBC) and *Manukin — A Family Portrait* (Isle of Man) for arts documentary; *The Cunniff Little Vixen* (BBC) for performing arts; *What's Line Is It Anyway?* (Channel 4) and *The Curse of Mr Bean* (Thames) for popular arts; and *The Fool of the World* and *The Flying Ship* (Thames) for youth. Roger Moore presents the Emmys at the New York Hilton next Monday.

Right time

PAUL Simon will be the first Western rock act officially to perform in South Africa since the lifting of the cultural boycott. His *Born*, which was recorded in the *Right Time* tour South Africa in contravention of the boycott.

Last chance...

ROBERT Lepage's dazzling production of *The Dragons' Trilogy* ends its run at Riverside Studios this Sunday, and after a week at Glasgow's Tronway, will not be seen in Britain again. Spanning 70 years of Canadian history, it gives a kaleidoscopic impression of a changing world. In two parts: single parts on weekdays and the complete six-hour version Saturday and Sunday (081 748 3354).



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It's official: toys are out

Today's children want sophisticated 'adult' treats in their Christmas stockings.
Victoria McKee reports

Lucinda Farnery is only two and a half years old, but toys are not on her Christmas list this year. "She had a doll and a pushchair last year," says her mother, Jane Farnery, "but this year she's seen a Playskool Walkman — a cassette recorder with earphones — that she's absolutely taken with, and she also wants a watch."

Lucinda confirms the toy industry's fears that childhood, in its commercial sense, is at an end, and that children are turning from toys at a younger and younger age to become involved in "adult imitation" products and computer and video games.

This month, as a Church of England report expressed anxiety at the way the church feels children are being influenced by toys — even singling out such stalwarts as Barbie and Cindy for the bad example they supposedly set with their frivolous, materialistic ways — the toy industry

'As children are encouraged to grow up more quickly, the toy industry is being hit harder'

is gearing itself up towards what may well be the most toyless Christmas since the dawn of consumerism.

Toy sales are hardly growing at all, according to Gordon Webb, of the British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association (BTHMA), while the computer and video games market is soaring. "The toy market figures include video games and games consoles such as Nintendo — but not computers," Mr Webb says.

Toy sales are up by 11.6 per cent this year but that figure, he says, includes a threefold increase in video game sales — up from £7 million last year to £22 million in the first half of 1991. By the end of this year video game sales are expected to be between £150 million and £200 million.

What these figures, coupled with the results of a forthcoming survey, seem to add up to is the end of childhood — as we knew it. Sandra Richards, formerly the marketing director of Matchbox toys and now a freelance market researcher, has just completed an independent survey of 500 mothers and children around the country. She asked the mothers what they intended as their main presents for children this Christmas, and children aged from five to 12 what they wanted. Toys — even in this age range — came a poor second to mountain bikes, computers, electronic games, electrical goods, clothes and sports equipment.

Miss Richards also found that the toy market is not depressed simply because of the economy. "The average spent worked out at about £130 per five to 12-year-old and £85 per under five, with no discernible differences between the social classes or regions," she says.

Lucinda and her mother participated in the survey, as did Pauline



All I want for Christmas... Jane Farnery and her daughter, Lucinda, who, at the age of two and a half, wants a Playskool Walkman and a watch

Johnson of Tyneside, who has two children, Andrew, aged eight, and Rachel, aged five. Mrs Johnson intends to get both her children bikes for their main present this Christmas, "although that's not what they asked for. Andrew wants a computer, a stereo and a television set for his room, and Rachel likes Polly Pocket dolls." She expects to spend "about £200 each" on the children — very little of that on toys.

Miss Richards's survey also gives evidence of another trend: parents who are strongly against violent, aggressive toys and videos. Elaine Flood of Windsor, for example, is buying her six-year-old son David a carpentry set and workbench, which he has asked for, and her daughter Cheryl, two, a train set. The Floods try to promote old-fashioned play values and do not distinguish between so-called girls' toys and boys' toys. "Cheryl got a doll's house for a birthday and she was too young to play with it but David loved it, whereas Cheryl loves cars," Mrs Flood says.

A recently published report by the market research company Euromonitor suggests that working mothers

may be responsible for the rise of the "non-sexist" toy. As household tasks become increasingly unisex, the report says, so the popularity of toys such as vacuum cleaners and play-houses for both sexes rises.

Campaigning organisations, such as Action Against War Toys in the United States and the Peace Pledge Union in Britain, feel that some small victories have been won against toy weapons. For example, in America they must be made in unrealistic colours. However, the Euromonitor report says that while other Europeans, such as the Germans, do not like to buy their children toy weapons, these toys have maintained their popularity in the UK. Mr Webb says that "toy weapons account for only about 0.1 per cent of the UK market — and there was a decline of about 16 per cent in that sector in the first half of this year, after a hiccup due to the Gulf war".

But Jan Melichar of the Peace Pledge Union says the new battle is against video game violence. "Traditional guns and bows and arrows

are now classic toys and far removed from the sort of violence children get on video and computer games," he says. "Now the violence is becoming a lot more internalised — children play on their own and lose links with the outside world."

Where the toy industry — and its effects on childhood — is concerned, it is useful to look to the United States, where trends tend to be at least a year ahead of ours, and where many of the toys that will be introduced at the London Toy Fair next year are already on the market.

Peggy Charren, a leading American campaigner against violence in children's toys and television programmes, is encouraged by the success of the eco-conscious Captain Planet television series. "Captain Planet's boss is a woman, he works with teenagers from around the world — of both sexes and different ethnic groups — and the issues they are trying to fix are problems with dolphins and the ozone layer," she says. "That's so much better than something that makes conquest the name of the game."

But Susan Butenhoff, of Bridge Communications in San Francisco,

a respected American toy industry analyst, says: "Although there's a trend towards 'green' toys and Captain Planet is one of the top cartoon shows, manufacturers are still apprehensive about investing money in a toy that gets a lot of press visibility but gets left on the shelf. It's a trend that is talked about but not represented at the tills."

"I'm afraid there are no 'politically correct' and environmentally sound video games. The only trend has been towards a young girls' market with things like a Barbie doll video game, in which the whole essence is shopping — very sexist."

The fantasy zone is where video games continue to score. "In America they are appealing to kids of three now — whereas before it was eight to 12-year-olds — manufacturers realise they saturated the older age group," Ms Butenhoff says. "As children are encouraged to grow up more quickly, the toy industry is being hit harder. The Christmas wish list is no longer a list of toys — it's Nike training shoes, records, tapes, compact discs, computer games and clothes. Toys have become a poor stepister."

Queen of hearts?

What use is the Queen to her people? Well, um, tourism of course. Besides, they're an example. I mean, look at politics: if we didn't have a Queen the politicians would behave even worse, quite appalling. And we wouldn't feel safe, if we just had a president, would we? Definitely not. Wouldn't seem British. Anyway, they're family, just like your Auntie Tricia, know what I mean? And they do a hard job, all those public engagements and no privacy.

Mind you, that Fergie gets away with murder. Diana now, she's lovely. Just like us. Except that she couldn't ever walk out on Charles, could she? Royals can't get divorced, it would sort of frighten people. I mean, if they're not going to make it, what chance have the rest of us got? They set standards, know what I mean?

And so on, forever. Very few people, even professors of social science, would willingly let themselves in for many months of listening to mind-numbing conversations with typical British households on the topic of the royal family. Least of all when his colleagues in the sociology profession are going to be mildly embarrassed and rather censorious of his choice of topic.

Self-respecting social psychologists should be having gritty chats with multicultural single-parents, not cooing over a cup of tea with their mums and dads and aunts, listening to a lot of drivel about the Queen Mum.

But Michael Billig, professor of social sciences at Loughborough University, has defied convention by insisting that there is a need for "a social psychology of contemporary monarchy", and conducted a study whose result is a book, *Talking of the Royal Family*. Sixty-three families, mostly blue-collar, were exhaustively debriefed and their views transcribed and solemnly analysed.

If a computer consultant reckons Princess Margaret is a poor ambassador for Britain, a cleaner is convinced the Queen would ban Prince Edward from marrying a "coloured" girl, and a 16-year-old thinks the Queen Mother is a good granny, it is recorded.

And it is strangely compelling. Not least because of the marvellous insight it gives into the human ability to think two opposite things at the same time, and to embrace illogically with robust enthusiasm. "The Queen," opined a middle-aged woman, "ought to set an example. But not that it makes any difference."

But if any courtier with a sense of humour sees fit to leave the book beside the monarch's bed, there will be absolutely nothing in it to cost her sleep. We British would still, it appears, do almost anything to save the Queen.

● *Talking of the Royal Family* by Michael Billig, £10.99 paperback, Routledge.

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because nobody follows her example."

Professor Billig bravely rides the waves of unreason, only sometimes faltering at the baffling failures of logic. The royal family, we believe, are on a pedestal, only they're just like us. We want them to behave more royally, but also more like commoners. We're coldly cynical about sort of frightened people. I mean, if they're not going to make it, what chance have the rest of us got? They set standards, know what I mean?

Contradictory views are frequently expressed in the same sentence. Even more baffling is the fact that most of these families were able to diagnose their own inconsistencies, while continuing to hold them.

There is startlingly little envy, in one interview, a family piled the royals who can't walk out for a bag of chips "like us". Yet they had already told the researcher, in another context, that they dared not leave their flat at night because of prowling street gangs. We seem simultaneously to look up to the royals and pity them, treat them as exotic yet use them as coded symbols for our own family life.

Professor Billig attacks his topic with vigour, scattering around a lot of learned stuff about the Freudian superego, but in the end he seems baffled as anyone else. He has a game stab at setting up the royal family as the very spirit of post-modernism, a sort of neo-classical facade which gives relief from the hideous structure of modern life: yet neither he nor anyone else can quite explain why Walter Bagehot's "brilliant edition of a universal fact" still rivets us.

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"She's lovely, just like us": the Princess of Wales

AND BRIEFLY

Coutured Christmas

CHRISTMAS and couture converge at the Design and Decoration Building in London's Pimlico Road. Fashion designers Vivienne Westwood, Rifat Ozbek, Victor Edelstein and Bruce Oldfield have "tailored" rooms for the "Décoration — Haute Couture" exhibition, which will run until December 20.

A Baroque salon has been created by Ms Westwood, a room inspired by American Indian motifs for Mr Ozbek, a "gentleman's dressing room"

by Mr Edelstein, and a fashion extravaganza by Mr Oldfield, in which carpets and curtains are made to look like model gowns. In addition to seeing some of the best-dressed Christmas trees (by the likes of The Chelsea Gardeners and The World of Interiors) visitors will find unusual Christmas presents at the Interior Design Accessory Shop, launched to coincide with the exhibition. Anton Mosimann's new Christmas pudding is among the seasonal goodies on sale. General admission is £5, with a special offer to *The Times* readers to bring a friend along free (show this item). On Tuesday, December 3, there will be a special shopping evening in aid of the Birth Defects Foundation's Happy Birth Day Appeal, when mince pies

and mulled wine will be served and Christmas decorations chosen by the designers will be on sale. Further details and tickets from the Design & Decoration Building, 107a Pimlico Road, London SW1W 8PH (071-730 2353).

Warmly witty

BADGERS and bunnies, foxes and geese — the new Cotswold Woollens autumn/winter catalogue has some of the wildest woollens available. A beige and terracotta sweater with a border of badgers and autumn leaves or a conifer green one with foxes and ferns cost £39.95 each in pure new wool. There are geese sweaters for adults and children at £29.95 and £15.99 respectively, and one with a

yoke of West Highland terriers for £15.99. The witty woollens can be teamed with conventional classics, such as corduroy skirts and trousers. For a catalogue write or telephone Cotswold Woollens, 2 Queens Circus, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 226262).

Palace treats

WHERE can you buy orange pomanders, pewter candlesticks complete with candles — and beeswax candles to put in them — hand-made Christmas decorations and mead to wash down traditional Christmas puddings? From the Hampton Court Palace shop, which this year has set up a mail-order facility for its special Christ-

mas lines. The puddings, mince, cranberry sauce, run butter and mead are all made from Tudor recipes, sourced from 16th-century cookery records, and from December 27 to 31 members of the kitchen staff, dressed in Tudor costumes, will give cookery demonstrations of the period — how to roast a pig on a spit, or prepare posage and elaborate sugar confections. For example, "Family trails" of the palace and gardens, with small prizes for those who complete them successfully, are free to visitors, but admission to the palace and grounds is £4.60 for adults and £2.90 for children (family tickets £13.90). To order items by post write to The Retail Manager, Apartment 20, Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey.

A career push

FEMALE high-flyers and tentative returners to work are being targeted by City of London Polytechnic courses. Women hoping to re-enter the job market will be helped to identify their abilities and priorities, evaluate their training and education options, and plan their return from 6pm to 8.30pm tomorrow and Friday. A two-day, full-time course on management development for women, takes place on December 12 and 13. This is for those who want to become managers or who want to further develop their management skills. Details: Susan Wharton, Short Course Unit, City of London Polytechnic, 84 Moorgate, London EC2M 6SQ (071-256 8843).

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Woodrow Wyatt

NHS trusts are good news for the Tories

Good news for the country is bad news for the Opposition. The reverse applies if the blame can be stuck on the government. It was ever thus. A splendid fishing ground for bad news is the NHS. With ever more millions of patients, random misfortunes are inevitable. The trick is to highlight a tragedy, imply that it is typical of the NHS, and curse the government for providing too little money. On Monday the *Daily Mirror's* front page shock headline was "DEAD. Because there was no money to save her". It was claimed that 18-month-old Georgina Norris died because an operation at the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital was twice cancelled through government refusal to supply cash for the intensive care she would have needed afterwards. The truth is different. The little girl's heart operation was postponed twice because the cardiac intensive care unit had to admit what were judged to be more urgent emergency cases ahead of her during a period of unusual demand.

The pretence is that because of government stinginess, the NHS is *en route* to privatisation and is unable to satisfy patients' reasonable expectations. Last week, a poll showed that of those who have been in hospital in the last two years, 87 per cent were happy with NHS treatment (three per cent more than a year ago). The percentage of NHS users whose opinion is favourable has risen 10 per cent to 75 per cent. And 87 per cent of people are satisfied with their GPs.

The government has provided more money than originally planned, but backing for still more spending is distinctly low. Only 14 per cent would be willing to pay as much as £50 a year in extra taxes for the purpose. Not much mileage here for Labour in its clamour for yet higher spending.

The privatisation gambit centres on the new hospital trusts. There are already 57, and after next April there will be another 99, and a third of all NHS hospitals and community health services will be run by trusts. These are no longer the servants of bureaucratic, time-wasting, efficiency-cramping district and regional health authorities. They are now their customers, who inform the hospital trusts what services are required. The hospital trusts, permanently a part of the NHS, receive NHS money for the patients they are considered best equipped to treat.

The success of the trusts, able to run their own affairs without hands-on interference, has already been spectacular. At the Royal Free Hospital in north London, a trust since April 1, large savings have been made. Thanks to these, *inter alia*, a new £1.5 million 100-bed hospital for the elderly was opened in October. There have been 200 applications to work in it, because the Royal Free is able to decide its own pay and conditions. In June, 560 patients had waited more than a year for general surgery operations; now the number is down to 13. Staff and patients, at first worried by Labour propaganda, are now enthusiastic, as they are at other hospital trusts such as Guy's. There, self-government has enabled 1,200 lower paid staff to be given £6 a week extra and 6,000 more patients than planned will be treated by the end of this year.

Received wisdom is that the NHS is Labour's automatic vote-gatherer and that the Tories should shun debate about it. The truth is that the government should relentlessly challenge Labour. Labour's foolish pledge to destroy the hospital trusts and return them to the stifling centralised bureaucracy beloved of socialism is a boomerang. The more it is understood that Labour's attacks on NHS improvements are merely a cynical election ploy, the more contemptuous the public will be.

George Bush is panicking at signs of his plummeting popularity, says Conor Cruise O'Brien, in Washington

Victim of voodoo economics

A year from now, the United States could have a Democratic president. When I arrived here in the first week of October, that would have seemed a crazy statement. There is nothing crazy about it now. Last week panic signals were coming from the Republican camp.

On Sunday, *The Washington Post* quoted a Republican activist as saying: "It's falling apart. We're in freefall here. We're getting the crap beat out of us. The Democrats have pulled George Bush right into their playing field and they're punching him out."

The president's "re-election approval rate" has slipped from 68 per cent at the end of the Gulf war to 47 per cent. The recession has been going on long enough for people to start blaming the president. The Republicans predicted a short and shallow recession, but now it looks quite long and deep. The Republican strategy for the recession was not to intervene, to try to keep the federal budget down and to "set the stage for long-term economic growth through a second Bush

administration". But if the recession is still biting a year from now, there isn't going to be a second Bush term.

The news last week was not reassuring. Retail sales were still stagnant, and the Dow Jones industrial average fell a quarter, by 120.31 points: the stock market's fifth biggest tumble ever. Obviously, the president would like to take the economy out of the recession quickly through tax cuts and/or increased government spending. However, his power to respond in these ways is severely restricted by record budget deficits. Analysts point out that if the administration were to try to spend its way out of the recession, it might make matters worse by frightening credit markets and driving up interest rates.

There is a poetic justice in this situation. For the deficits that now constrain President Bush are the creation of the Reagan years, and

Vice-President Bush abetted the policies responsible. When he was contending for the Republican nomination, he correctly denounced Reagan's budgetary proposals as "voodoo economics", but when Reagan won the nomination, Bush accepted the vice-presidency. He then helped to reassure the public that huge deficits were perfectly harmless. So it is fitting that he should now at last be beginning to pay a political price for the years of profligacy and deceit to which he consented, having sacrificed his better judgment to his consuming ambition.

Bush has himself been showing signs of panic, and so have some of his closest associates. The first such sign came early this month, immediately following the unexpected victory of the Democratic candidate Harris Wofford in the senatorial race in Pennsylvania. Mr Wofford, a distinguished academic who is new to

electoral politics, was fighting an experienced Republican candidate, but won by a comfortable 10 per cent margin. In his campaign, Mr Wofford hammered the theme that George Bush was letting America go hang while looking after the rest of the world. When the bad news from Pennsylvania reached the White House, the president immediately cancelled an Asian trip. By so acting, of course, he was inadvertently confirming the Democrats' diagnosis. He would have done better to go ahead with his trip and be seen putting pressure on the Japanese to buy more American goods.

Last week, the signs of panic were of a more bizarre and exotic character. They showed in the handling, here in Washington, of the report of the joint Anglo-American investigation into the Lockerbie bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988. In London, Douglas Hurd was restrained:

"This is a mass murder which is alleged to involve the organs of government of a state," he said. In Washington, however, there was no restraint. Marilyn Fitzwater, the president's press secretary referred on television to "this latest terrorist atrocity of Gaddafi's government" without using the word "alleged". A state department spokesman, Richard Boucher, also declared on television: "The bombers were Libyan government intelligence operators. This was a Libyan government operation from start to finish." Mug shots of the two Libyan intelligence operators found guilty by the Bush administration were supplied to the media.

The handling of the report was also silly in terms of domestic politics. It was vulnerable to an obvious Democrat retort, which came immediately: "They're trying to change the subject. They're saying: 'Let's not talk about now,

and about the American economy. Let's talk about Libya instead and things that happened three years ago."

The administration's performance over the report was so outlandish that it succeeded in making Gaddafi's Libya look good. Before the television cameras, the Libyan ambassador to the United Nations appeared and sounded cool and responsible. Was there no such thing as presumption of innocence, he asked? Should accused parties not have been given a right to be heard in their own defence before a verdict of guilty was handed down? No effective reply to that question was possible in the circumstances.

Indeed, if Gaddafi were clever enough to send the two men to the United States to face justice, I believe a federal judge would decide that the two could not have a fair trial, the case having been hopelessly prejudiced by the verdict of guilty already publicly declared on behalf of the executive branch of the US government. The two could then go back to Tripoli, leaving George Bush looking remarkably silly.

Tartan lesson in nationhood

Scotland proves that political union need not mean any loss of identity, writes John Grigg

With St Andrew's Day at the end of the month and the Maastricht summit in early December, the moment is right to be asking the question: how much does national identity depend upon national sovereignty?

To some people, notably Mrs Thatcher and her groupies, it seems an article of faith that the more sovereignty we share within the European Community the less clearly defined our British identity will become. But is this remotely true? Do history and experience provide any rational basis for their belief?

First, what is British national identity? United Kingdom sovereignty, we know, is vested in the Queen in Parliament, and the United Kingdom is the super-nation, or super-state, within the British archipelago. But the archipelago also contains a smaller sovereign state, the Republic of Ireland, while the largest of its islands, Great Britain, contains three national communities that are not, in themselves, sovereign.

The sovereign United Kingdom has a considerable national identity, usually summed up in the rather misleading terms "Britain" and "British". In 1940, Britain certainly was a very distinct phenomenon, in its own eyes and in the eyes of the world, though the country did not, in the familiar phrase, "stand alone" at that time. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were all in the war in 1940, having entered it voluntarily as more or less sovereign states, and the Indian and colonial empires were in it too, by our decision, although their fighting troops were volunteers. The whole Commonwealth and Empire that was at war in 1940 was British by ethnic affinity and sentiment, or

by allegiance to a common crown, or by both.

Today those dimensions of Britishness have almost ceased to exist, although there is still a residue of sentiment and an important symbolic role for the British sovereign in the new, largely non-British, Commonwealth. In other respects the imperial content of Britain's national identity, as of its sovereignty, has disappeared.

So we are back with the sovereign UK and its component nationalities, to which, instead of the old imperial dimension, there is now a European dimension. Already a fair amount of our sovereignty has been merged with the EC, and the likelihood that further merging will soon take place is arousing controversy. Various arguments are used against this process, none of them, on balance, convincing. But of all the arguments the one about national identity is the least convincing, though it is advanced with the most passion.

To see how absurd it is, one need only look at the case of Scotland, which nearly 300 years ago merged its sovereignty with England's to form the UK. Can anybody pretend that Scotland's identity was effaced, or even blurred, by the Act of Union? That is so far from the case that one could much more easily assert the opposite: that the genius of Scotland has shone more brightly since the union than it ever did before.

Of all the great names in Scottish history, the two that are probably best known throughout the world are Robert Burns and Walter Scott. Both flourished after the union, and together they did more than anyone to define the world's idea of Scotland. They made Scottishness far richer and more real than it had been during

all the centuries when Scotland was a sovereign and nominally independent state.

During those centuries, Edinburgh was a political capital, but in every other way peripheral. Within the hundred years that followed the Act of Union, it became a cultural beacon to the whole of Europe and beyond.

with a variety of talent seldom matched from ancient Athens to the present time. In literature, art, science, philosophy and political economy, the union inaugurated Scotland's golden age.

Moreover, Scots beyond the border exercised power and influence out of all proportion to their numbers. The British em-

pire was largely run by them, the roll call of Scottish engineers, educators, lawgivers and administrators being almost endless. In England, too, Scots have had a potent effect: consider the influence of Thomas Carlyle and John Reith.

The merger of sovereignty between Scotland and England

was more comprehensive than anything likely to be seen in Europe for some time to come. So if Scotland's national identity did not suffer — but was, on the contrary, enhanced — then a *fortiori* there is no reason now to fear for Britain's identity, or that of any other one of the Twelve.

Europe, like the UK, may always have a more nebulous identity than the nationalities within it, but it is nevertheless a reality whose appeal may be expected to come into its own at crucial moments, as Britain's appeal did in 1940 (though one hopes not in similar circumstances). So long as it has the necessary institutions, including democratic control, its identity should steadily grow.

Since the last war, the true threat to national identity in Europe has come not from the EC, but from the culturally homogenising effects of Americanisation. Paradoxically, however, there is a side to this that is helpful to European unity. Integration, which would be difficult without a common language, is much assisted by the wide acceptance of English for practical purposes. The Europeans need not be "divided by a common language", for they are united by geography and self-interest.

There is, of course, plenty of scope for more sharing of sovereignty downwards as well as upwards. Although Scotland and Wales already have far more pronounced national identities than most of the technically sovereign nations represented in the United Nations without being humiliated with embassies or other such paraphernalia, they would certainly benefit from more devolution; and the demand for it from Scotland, in particular, is likely to prove irresistible. But it would be just as unfortunate for Scotland to carry this process too far in relation to the United Kingdom, as for the UK to be excessively nationalistic in its attitude to the EC.

One of the oddest features of the present debate is that those who most fiercely resist further movement towards a larger unity in Europe tend to be the least sympathetic to Scottish nationalism, the credentials of which are just as valid as those of UK nationalism, if not more so.

Among friends at last

A REUNION is being planned next month for Terry Waite. John McCarthy, Brian Keenan and Jackie Mann, at the Friends of John McCarthy's last official function. The pressure group, created in January 1988 to publicise the fate of McCarthy and the other British hostages, will be wound up by Christmas.

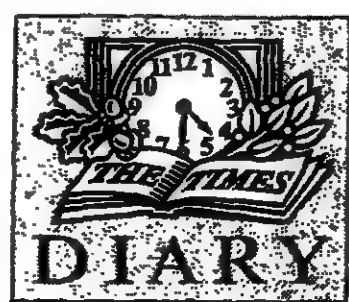
The group met at the weekend, when rumours of Waite's release began, and considered extending the campaign to publicise the cause of the remaining non-British Middle East hostages. But with the Foreign Office's influence now more limited, the group decided its work is over.

"The hostages will be guests of honour at the farewell party," says Catherine Comerford, the organiser of the Friends. "We have not decided yet on a location." It will be an emotion-charged occasion if all four of the freed hostages attend. "I hope it will not be too much of a strain for them," says Comerford.

So will the partygoers be wearing "Free John McCarthy" T-shirts? A surfeit of these is still piled high in the organisation's London office.

Pat McCarthy, John's father, is looking forward to the reunion between his son and Waite. But, he says, "it is right to leave a decent interval. The object of the stay at RAF Lynham is to give the hostages time to get to know his family."

While the Friends are rejoicing, the vigil at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, which has been going on since January 1987, will continue. Two candles are burning every day and this will continue until all of the remaining hostages are freed.



● The Archers were impressively up to the minute last night on Radio 4, when the *Borchester* locals discussed Terry Waite's homecoming, particularly since the episode was recorded more than a month ago. A spokesman for the BBC owns up: "We hurriedly produced a new scene and cut it in with a razor blade and sticky tape."

Explain that

STAFF on BBC's *Panorama* programme are questioning what happened to John Birt's much-vaunted mission to explain. After a four-year wait to screen revelations about Terry Waite's alleged connections with Oliver North, the programme was prepared for its usual Monday night slot. But Tony Hall, the BBC's director of news and current affairs, ruled late on Monday afternoon that the controversial programme should not be shown. Hall argued that to run it before Waite had set foot on British soil would be in "bad taste".

Gavin Hewitt, the presenter, and the rest of the *Panorama* team accepted that the *Terry Waite Story*, which lasts an hour, should not be shown while Waite was in captivity. But Hall's decision to ban it on Monday caused dismay at the BBC.

The programme was broadcast last night, complete with a pre-

recorded interview with Oliver North. However, *Panorama* staff who spent five months in 1987 investigating the story were furious to have lost a scoop to *Newsnight*, which broke the story on Monday, and ran a live interview with North.

True Brits

AT LEAST one outpost of the British Isles will be unmoved by today's Commons debate on Europe. Scarcely a word about the federal controversy has been written in the press on the Channel Islands, which are not part of

"No island is an island..."



the EC, and have not signed the Treaty of Rome.

Rather than calling themselves members of the EC, the islands refer only to a "relationship with the EC". John Christensen, of the economic advisory department at the State's Office in Jersey, says: "We object even to the term associate member. It implies an intention to become a full member."

The islands' relationship with the EC is defined by the protocol attached to the United Kingdom's Treaty of Accession. It relates to the movement of manufactured

and agricultural goods, but not to the more contentious areas of fiscal harmonisation, movement of capital and citizens, and social policy — all of which will be to the fore in the Commons debate.

Christensen says: "We are autonomous, which may be why there is no interest here in the federal debate. I don't think people even know it is happening."

● Will Yugoslavia be Mrs Thatcher's next great campaign after the debate on Euro-union? Now that she is taking a keen interest in the fate of Croatia, Robin Harris, the head of her private office, is taking sensible precautions. He is learning Serbo-Croat.

Home-town recital

FROM the Musicverein in Vienna to Carnegie Hall in New York, the pianist Moura Lympany has played in the most famous concert halls of the world. Last night she performed for the first time in Wesley Methodist Church, Saltash, Cornwall, the place of her birth.

Her rendition of Chopin's Sonata in B minor, followed by an ensemble of Chopin waltzes, entranced the 450 locals. "I was delighted when the town invited me to play," says Lympany who this year celebrates her 75th birthday. "It's the most perfect extra birthday present."

As a babe in arms, Moura never knew her birthplace, and she first revisited Saltash in the 1950s. Her mother was on the way to Newquay when nature demanded that she delay the journey.

"It's the most charming town," she says. "I went to see the cottage where I was born, with its sea view. It was quite charming."

Mour's dream, but I live in Monte Carlo where I have another glorious view of the sea."



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

To those of you seeking to discover whether life is getting any less complicated, I have to say that I have just received a communication from Les Bushby which has made my two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres, my knotted and combined locks to ... you know the rest.

Les (Leslie? Lester? Lesbia, even? Like much else today, the fashion for corporate chumminess sheds only, where there should be light, yet deeper darkness) is the Customer Accounting Manager of North Thames Gas, in which capacity he/she has sent me a postcard headed "Commitment To Our Customer", a slogan which I'm certain will reassure all who read it, with the possible exception of those customers who may themselves be facing commitment as the result of what the postcard goes on to observe.

"Is your gas appliance installer complying with the law?" it begins, and before you have had the chance to answer, let alone find an assumed name and begin packing for South America, it explains that "since 30th March 1991, it is the law that all gas installers must be registered with CORGI."

Yes, well, CORGI, eh? I wonder how long it took them, indeed how much it cost them, finally to hit upon that cosy little gem. Did bats fly above the executive turrets of North Thames House, did corks bulge from the embassies, were all employees, be they never so humble, en-

joined to foregather on the elegant Staines patio for a celebratory jam tea and a rousing chorus or two of the company anthem? Because not only did NTG's PR department have to come up with a customer-friendly acronym, it had next to manufacture an abbreviatable organisation to suit it, viz, the Council for Registered Gas Installers. I am assuming that that is the order in which such things are invented, because it is the least time-wasting. Start with, say, the Council for Registered Appliance Personnel, and you could be there all night.

To de-gross back to Les's card: "REMEMBER," it bellows, in bold-face caps, "IT IS THE LAW THAT ONLY CORGI REGISTERED INSTALLERS ARE LEGALLY ABLE TO CARRY OUT GAS INSTALLATION, SERVICING AND REPAIR WORK." Remember? How am I to remember what I never knew? While March 30 may have been a red-letter date in the Bushby household, the rest of us were out celebrating Rolf Harris's birthday, and therefore very soon in no position to give a Castlemaine for the passage of a law which threatened those peremptorily booted beyond the CORGI pale to suffer God knows what fearful penalties for illicit spannering.

It is thus only this morning that I wake up to find myself a criminal. Sometime in June, we had a bit of trouble with the kitchen hob. I shan't go into details, because I don't have the

remotest idea what they are: those of us registered with COWBOY have enough on our plates — guttering, trellices, pondwork, sash-cords, fanelles, mice, waste-nondisposals, grouting, couch-grass, urising buns, aerial-work, all manner of general glueing, the occasional 800 words — without attempting to fathom mere theory. We at Mickey Mouse House are concerned only with practice: when, some sunny June morning, we go down to boil an egg and find ourselves unable to make gas-flame do anything but wobble and pop, we crawl underneath, as we call it, and have a shuffle. If we then notice a frayed slit in the tubing leading to the hob which, professionally nositrilled, informs us that all is not as it should be, we immediately (a) run about shrieking, (b) turn the supply off at the main, and (c) nip down to the plumbers' merchants in Cricklewood Broadway, lean on the trade counter as if we knew anything from our elbow, and ask for the requisite length of half-inch conduit. John, plus a couple of them brass wossmen.

We then come home again, fit the new tubing, make good, remove all rubbish from site, and cook breakfast. Unwise, North Thames will cry, and wisely so, but criminal seems a bit strong. Still, the deed is done. Where its confession will get me, mind, is still unsure, but if Parkhurst is having trouble with its griddles, I am open to offers. All I ask is a bit of a sea view.

Fresh wave of Wall Street selling drags London down

By PHILIP ROBINSON
AND MICHAEL CLARK

PRESIDENT Bush called a meeting of his economic advisers yesterday as Wall Street plunged for the second time in three trading days on fears that an economic recovery is some way off.

The Dow Jones industrial average of America's top 30 companies was down 75.81 points at 2,896.91 at 2pm in New York, down almost 165 points in three days. Analysts predict that the drop is far from over and some are forecasting a further decline of between 200 and 300 points before

Wall Street steadies.

In London, the FT-SE 100 index closed 39.8 points down at 2,463.1, a recovery from the 52.5 fall registered about 4pm. Volume was high with 507 million shares traded.

Mr Bush, in a television broadcast to newspaper editors yesterday, said he accepted the economy was sluggish but that there had been far too much emphasis on the gloom of the economy and not enough on its positive side.

He told them: "There's some fairly good fundamentals out there.

Inflation is down. Interest rates are down. Personal debt is down. Inventories are down. So it's not like we're dealing with a totally bad economy."

Yesterday's Wall Street fall was sparked by worse than expected trade figures that showed the deficit between imports and exports widening almost 4 per cent to \$6.8 billion. Imports rose to levels not seen for almost a year.

Shares prices were driven even lower by a reluctance of money managers — whose salaries are linked to the performance of their funds — to risk gains made so far

this year and they sold heavily. Institutional investors have been net sellers of American shares for the past two months.

Michael Metz, analyst with Oppenheimer, the stockbroker, said: "I cannot consider that the correction is over. The economic figures will not get much better."

Bad economic news and fears of government interference in the banking system sent the Dow Jones industrial average plunging 120 points on Friday, in one of the heaviest trading days on record, with 239.3 million shares changing hands. The market rallied by

almost 30 points on Monday, largely on buying from small investors, convinced that the fall meant shares were cheap. But for almost five months, some analysts have said Wall Street is overvalued, based on profit expectations for the coming year, and some now feel that dividend payments are in jeopardy.

Conditions in London remained volatile, but it now seems as if market-makers have gained the upper hand and are starting to dictate the pace of events.

Markets, page 28

TODAY IN BUSINESS

EUROPHILE



Sir Denys Henderson, the ICI chairman, wants the Maastricht summit to agree on economic integration. A Fortress Europe attitude is not desirable
Page 27

PROPERTY

Commercial property looks at the increasing opportunities for the commercial property market in Europe and reviews the state of the important central London office market
Page 35

THORN'S IMAGO



Thorn EMI, the electrical business now concentrating on music and rentals, has bought the rest of Chrysalis Records from Chris Wright's Chrysalis Group
Page 27

TASTE OF PROFIT

First-half pre-tax profits at Hazlewood Foods rose 3 per cent to £23.1 million despite higher fish prices and restrictions on cockle harvesting. The interim dividend is raised to 2.2p (2.1p)
Page 28

SWITCHED ON



Rudolph Agnew has won a bankers' agreement for TVS, the defunct independent television contractor, that will allow broadcasts to continue
Page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7967 (+0.0005)
German mark 2.8738 (-0.0073)
Exchange index 91.1 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1887.8 (-27.1)
FT-SE 100 2463.1 (-39.8)
New York Dow Jones 2911.67 (-61.05)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23326.86 (-73.26)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%
3-month Interbank 10 1/4%
3-month Treasury 10 1/4%
US: Prime Rate 7 1/4%
Federal Funds 4 1/4%
3-month Treasury 4 5/4-5.33%
30-year bonds 10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York \$1.7975
DM 2.8778 \$1.7994
SwF 2.5489 \$1.7994
FF 9.8225 \$1.7994
Yen 233.05 \$1.7994
Index 91.1 \$1.7994
CU 10.70327 \$1.7994
ECU 1.408787 \$1.7994
London torax market close

GOLD

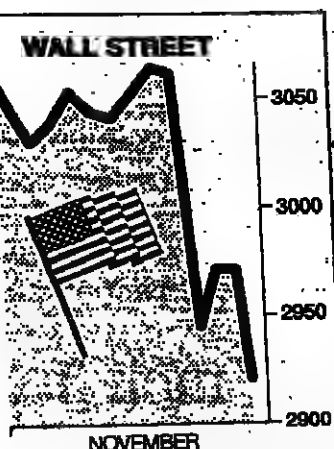
London: 14 \$359.95 pm \$383.00
10 \$363.10 10 \$363.50 (\$202.10)
20 \$363.10 10 \$363.50 (\$202.10)
New York: 10 \$363.10 10 \$363.50 (\$202.10)

NORTH SEA OIL

rent (Dec) ... \$21.20 bbl (\$21.30)

RETAIL PRICES

Pl: 135.1 October (1987-1990)
Denotes midday trading price



City expected better performance

Upturn in GDP clouded by one-off oil rise

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE recession was formally declared to be over yesterday, when government statisticians announced that gross domestic product, the broadest measure of activity in the economy, increased slightly in the third quarter after a year of sharp decline.

The good news was heavily qualified, however, by the details of the GDP data, which showed the whole of the quarter's growth was due to a one-off rise in North Sea oil production. Excluding the North Sea, the economy contracted in the third quarter, at about the same rate as in the quarter before.

Total GDP increased by 0.3 per cent in the third quarter after a fall of 0.6 per cent in the previous three months. But GDP excluding oil and gas extraction fell by 0.3 per cent. This was no better than the second-quarter performance, also a 0.3 per cent fall in GDP. North Sea output fell sharply in the second quarter because of maintenance and safety work after last year's rig disasters. In the third quarter, oil output returned to normal, boosting GDP growth.

The City was disappointed by the data, having expected by the end of the year a total GDP growth of about 0.5 per cent and a flat performance or better in the non-oil economy. The figures capped a run of disheartening statistical releases since the Chancellor's optimistic autumn statement two weeks ago. The

bad news has included weaker retail sales, announced on Monday, and flat manufacturing output, last week. Although financial reactions were muted yesterday because the main preoccupation of markets was Wall Street's problems, the GDP figures contributed to the weak tone of sterling and share prices.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, put a brave face on the figures, calling them "welcome news", while noting that "some sectors of the economy are coming out of recession more quickly than others."

Treasury officials agreed, saying that manufacturing output was unchanged in yesterday's figures after a fall of 0.8 per cent in the second quarter. Service output was up by 0.1 per cent after a fall of 0.1 per cent the quarter before. According to an unpublished industrial breakdown of yesterday's figures, the whole of the decline in non-oil GDP was due to construction and domestic electricity and gas consumption.

Weak construction activity was said to have caused about one-third of the decline in non-oil GDP, while the other two thirds were explained by seasonal adjustments and gas domestic electricity and gas sales. Government energy said that domestic energy use had been unusually high in the second quarter because of unseasonably cold spring and this was followed by a sharp fall in the third quarter. Adjusted for this aberration, the decline in GDP in the second quarter would have been

steeper than officially reported, while the third quarter would have been almost flat. The Treasury also said preliminary GDP figures are based on incomplete output statistics and often subject to upward revisions when more detailed information about incomes and expenditures becomes available. One of the most important of these items was released separately yesterday. The Central Statistical Office reported a large positive swing in stocks. Stockbuilding by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers showed a rise of £128 million in the third quarter, compared with a fall of £1.6 billion in the quarter before. Officials said the swing would add about 2 per cent to the expenditure measure of GDP growth in the third quarter. This will be published on December 20, with estimates based on incomes and a revised output-based estimate reconciled with the other two.

However, some analysts drew a gloomier conclusion from the dramatic turnaround in stockbuilding. The retail sector increased its stocks by £356 million, after a rundown of £401 million the quarter before, while manufacturers increased finished goods stocks by £202 million, after a cut of £271 million in the spring. Kevin Darlington, of UBS Phillips & Drew, said this pattern indicated that "industry was once again over-optimistic about demand in the third quarter."

Signs of recovery, page 29

Long-term jobless rises

By ROSE TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people out of work for more than 12 months rose 62,000 to 654,000 during the quarter to October 1993, the biggest rise since April 1983. People out of work for over a year accounted for 27 per cent of UK unemployment.

The biggest increases in long-term unemployment occurred in the South, according to government figures, but numbers rose in all regions. The number out of work for a year or more began to increase in the three months to January after a five-year decline.

Since October last year, the total has risen 146,000, but the pattern of increase diverges widely. In the Southeast,

where the recession began, the number of long-term jobless has increased 63.6 per cent to 151,500.

In the Southwest and East Anglia, the number increased 69.4 per cent and 67.8 per cent respectively. The Midlands and Wales experienced the next largest rises, with the scale of increase diminishing steadily from south to north to a rise of just 1.4 per cent in Scotland.

Rises in the number out of work for more than six months are greater still. In London and the Southeast it is 324,200, almost double the level of a year ago. The Southwest and East Anglia

show comparable rises, and the total nationwide exceeds 1.2 million.

Michael Howard, employment secretary, said the rises were "not unexpected" and did not detract from the government's long term record. Government measures were providing as much help as possible to the long-term unemployed.

Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, accused the government of lacking political will to offer substantial help to the long-term unemployed. "The figures are now accelerating sharply," he said. "No government should find this tolerable."

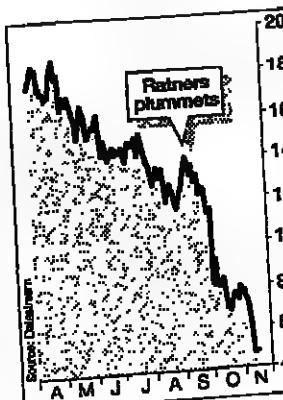
Ratner tries to cheer his troops

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

GERALD Ratner, chairman and chief executive of the jewellery group that bears his name, has written to staff to assure them he is "not resigning, selling up, going bust or jumping out of the window".

Mr Ratner, who has seen his shares fall from a peak of 205p a year ago to 45p, is predicting a late Christmas with a strong finish. He is seeking to assure staff who have heard rumours of everything from refinancing of the group by bankers to buyout talks with Kingfisher.

In his letter, he says: "You must be aware as I am that the newspapers have already written off both this Christmas and us with it." He says that while nobody knows what



Christmas will be like this year, he is expecting the festive period to end with a strong finish. Denying the rumours of his resignation and cash problems, he says

that staff at Ratner head office are concentrating solely on boosting Christmas sales.

Mr Ratner confirmed that he was considering floating 25 per cent of the American operation next year to raise funds but said it was unlikely to happen before April if at all. "With the share price at 45p, you have to consider everything," he said.

He is also considering splitting the role of chairman and chief executive and is believed to be looking for a strong outside chairman to help strengthen the board. But he insists that he will not be pushed into doing anything that is wrong for the group.

Analysts believe Mr Ratner may also be considering the

possibility of changing the name of the holding company from Ratners Group but they say that it is unlikely that any move to change the name of the company will come before Christmas.

Mr Ratner is flying to America this weekend where he will visit the Kays and Sterling businesses, which are the parts of the group that may be floated on the American market. The recession in America is affecting the business and any decision to float would be dependent on the state of the American market.

Mr Ratner says rumours that he is selling the group are unfounded: "There have been no approaches and I am not hawking the group around."

T&C loss now put at £28m

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

TOWN & Country Building Society is now expected to make a £28 million loss this year after tax relief. Woolwich Building Society said yesterday. This is almost three times the figure given two weeks ago when the rescue of the 15th-largest society by the fourth-largest was announced.

The difference in the estimates is because of different methods employed by the two societies in calculating the loss provisions for T&C. With operating profits expected to be £35 million, this means that the Woolwich feels that provisions should be between £60 million and £65 million.

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive of the Woolwich said: "On the basis of the unaudited information provided by our examination of its operating position, the Town and Country board has concurred in our estimate that, at the close of its financial year, its accounts are likely to show a net loss after tax relief of some £28 million. Its gross capital ratio should therefore be similar to that of the Woolwich."

Larger societies tend to have more stringent standards when making provisions for losses on residential mortgages. The Leeds announced this month it had changed its method of making provisions and now made a provision

that expected 70 per cent of properties with arrears of three months or more to end as repossession. The Building Societies Commission should publish guidance on provisioning for societies soon. The

board of the Town & Country yesterday agreed to recommend to its members a transfer of the society. Members will not, however, learn until next year how large any bonus might be.

Shares in MCC dive on debt warning

By ANGELA MACKAY
AND NEIL BENNETT

SHARES in Maxwell Communication Corporation lost almost 25 per cent of their value after £230 million of the company's debt was placed on a ratings watch yesterday. A slew of bad news since Robert Maxwell's death two weeks ago has cut MCC's market value by two-thirds and forced his family to consider sales to top up collateral for loans secured against MCC shares.

The market was already gloomy about MCC, whose new chairman is Kevin Maxwell, after the Serious Fraud Office announced on Monday it had launched an enquiry into a £55 million loan made by Swiss Bank Corporation to a private Maxwell company. Negative sentiment was reinforced by an announcement from IBCA, the ratings agency, that it had put MCC's senior debt and commercial paper on "ratings watch".

IBCA said it was concerned that the "actions of individual banks could jeopardise group funding" even though management and lead banks are seeking the support of smaller lenders.

One loan attracting particular attention is a £170 million term loan organised by Lloyds Bank to Robert Maxwell Group, one of the family's main unquoted vehicles. This is secured on RMG's 30.3 per cent stake in MCC, but at yesterday's price that stake was worth only £85 million.

Analysts said the family's most valuable and saleable asset was the 51 per cent stake in Mirror Group Newspapers.

Maxwell dealings, page 29

Introducing the only cab account that



puts you in complete control...

Computer Cab, London's largest and technically most advanced radio taxi company is launching the first cab account to put companies firmly in control of costs.

● You decide what restrictions are placed on each individual defining what journeys can be made and when. For instance, between certain locations and only during normal working hours, so all unauthorised journeys can be stopped.

● Each person receives a personalised charge card and PIN security code. The driver merely swipes the card through his on-board computer terminal to validate the journey.

● Accounting and administration procedures are streamlined and petty cash is eliminated. You receive one monthly statement, fully itemised in any way you wish.

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● Cabcharge cards are FREE and considerable savings can be made on many journeys.

We have over 2,500 licensed cabs all linked by computer to our central control, providing rapid access to London's largest fleet of taxis anywhere in the capital.

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Please send me the information which will put me firmly in control of my company's cab account costs.

Name _____ Job Title _____
Company _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel No. _____



C&W in winning Optus group

By Nick Nuttall
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

OPTUS Communications, a consortium that includes Cable and Wireless, has won the licence to become Australia's second telephone company.

The consortium, in which Cable and Wireless and BellSouth of America have a 49 per cent stake, will be able to compete directly with the state-owned Telecom company.

Under the agreement, Optus has paid Aus\$800 million (£351 million) for the government-owned Ausat regional satellite communications company, from which it will develop a national and international telecommunications company.

The consortium, in which the Australian companies of Mayne Nickless, AMP, National Mutual and the Australian Industry Development Telecommunications Fund have a 51 per cent stake, plan to spend Aus\$2 billion developing the network over the next six years.

Optus has agreed to offer a competing mobile telephone service by early next year and subscriber trunk dialling and international direct dialling from Sydney and Melbourne by late next year.

A competitive service for all Australia is expected by 1997.

BAT profits advance to £245m in third quarter

By Colin Campbell

BAT Industries, struggling to arrest mounting losses from general and mortgage-related business written by its Eagle Star insurance subsidiary, has bounced back with third-quarter pre-tax profits of £245 million (£50 million).

In the nine months to end-September, robust performances from non-Eagle Star general businesses and another surge in tobacco profits helped boost pre-tax profits to £662 million (£596 million). The shares fell 21p to 61p on the news.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, the chairman, said losses on domestic mortgage indemnity policies will only improve when there is a real recovery in the housing market.

He added: "We do not expect the housing market to pick up between now and the end of March. We do not believe housing will lead the economy out of recession."

While progress was made by the group's financial and life assurance operations, underwriting losses of £478 million (£177 million) at Eagle Star for the nine months remain unacceptably high, he said.

Rates that had risen over the past year, by 30 per cent on personal motor and by between 22 and 23 per cent for contents, would be pushed up further, Sir Patrick said.



Robust result: Sir Patrick Sheehy (left) and Martin Broughton, yesterday

Higher premium rates should work their way through to improved results from general insurance operations next year, he suggested.

Trading profits from tobacco operations were £248 million (£214 million) in the third quarter, lifting the running total for the first nine months from £646 million to £702 million.

BAT's dispute with the Argentine authorities over \$35

million of tax credits is unresolved, the group said, but a meeting with government ministers is due to be held shortly.

BAT, where Martin Broughton is senior finance director, made an additional £22 million provision against discontinued lines of financial insurance in the third quarter, taking total provisions to £190 million.

The group, which has the

running authority from shareholders to buy in its own shares, said it last made a share buy-back in August last year.

"We are not flush with cash," Sir Patrick added. Current gearing of 55 per cent is expected to rise by year-end.

Sir Patrick reiterated that BAT remains determined to make dividend increases in excess of the rate of inflation.

Downturn dampens Anglian Water

By Graham Searjeant
FINANCIAL EDITOR

RECESSION in the Southeast has hit Anglian Water. Metered sales, a quarter of the total, fell by 5 per cent in the six months to September 30, cutting about £5 million from profits. Doldrums in the housing market deprived Anglian of one of its usual growth sources.

Turnover increased by 14.2 per cent to £261 million, slightly less than the rise in prices. Alan Smith, Anglian's managing director, said there were signs of recovery.

Pre-tax profits were 8.9 per cent up at £91.9 million and the interim dividend has been raised by 8.6 per cent to 6.3p a share.

Anglian was the only privatised group not to be asked by its regulator to forgo part of next year's permitted price rise — or to volunteer to do so. A decision on 1992-3 prices will be made next month. Mr Smith said a rise of 0.5 per cent less than was permitted would cost the group about £2.5 million in a full year.

The company spent £150 million on capital works in the first half, 59 per cent up on last year. It expects to spend about £295 million in the full year to March 31.

Times, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hanson claims 68.3% of Beazer

HANSON has received acceptances representing 68.3 per cent of the ordinary shares of Beazer, the building group. HB Acquisitions, a Hanson subsidiary, made an agreed £351 million offer for Beazer in July. The initial offer period for both the ordinary and preference shares has been extended to November 26.

Hanson has acceptances for a further 8.66 per cent of Beazer's American depository shares, but under London rules these cannot be treated as valid until confirmation of delivery. The company said it was in discussions with the American Federal Trade Commission, which asked for further information on November 7, in order to obtain approval for the acquisition as soon as possible. All other regulatory approval has been obtained. At the same time, Hanson has received acceptances in respect of preference shares amounting to 80.47 per cent of Beazer's preference share capital.

Finch helps Young

THE first benefits of the takeover of the HH Finch chain of free houses in August were on display from Young & Co, the South London brewer, along with a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.07 million for the half year to September 28 and a 1p rise in the dividend to 7p.

John Young, the chairman, said the Finch pubs were doing well and the company was looking forward to continued growth in the second half. Turnover at the half-way stage was £1 million and trading profits £88,000. The brewer said it continued to seek more pubs, with two acquisitions being made since August.

Perkins expands

PERKINS Foods, the food distributor, has conditionally agreed to buy Anchor Seafoods for up to £5.1 million. The acquisition is conditional on Perkins shareholders approving a mark denominated convertible preference share issue. The new issue, together with £1 million worth of new ordinary shares, will be placed with the withdrawal of Anchor Seafoods to cover an initial consideration of £3.3 million.

Norman and Edwin Young, joint managing directors of Anchor, have signed contracts with Perkins that should keep them at the company until April 1992. In the year to end-April, Anchor Seafoods made a pre-tax profit of £792,000.

CML rises to £2.37m

CML Microsystems, the semi-conductor products and systems supplier, is establishing an American depository receipt programme, sponsored by The Bank of New York, with dealings in the company's stock in ADR form beginning next Monday.

In the six months to end-September, the company's pre-tax profits rose from £2.13 million to £2.37 million and earnings fell from 7.57p to 8.75p. CML does not pay an interim dividend. George Curry, the chairman, said there was unlikely to be a material upturn in the group's main markets in the second half.

Cosalt pegs payout

COSALT's pre-tax profits fell from £5.78 million to £2.47 million in the year to September. Earnings per share fell from 22.71p to 15.05p. However, the total dividend of this fishing industry supplier and distributor of canyons is being held at 16.75p with an unchanged final of 6.5p.

Edward Brian, the chairman and chief executive, said trading continued to be hard, with fierce competition restricting margins in a static market. The caravan division made losses of £93,000 (£8.63 million) in the year.

Earnings slide 55% at Volox

By Martin Barrow

DEPRESSED homebuilding and automotive markets continue to affect Volox, which makes wiring systems and electrical accessories.

In the six months to September 30, pre-tax profit fell 55 per cent, from £3.28 million to £1.48 million; earnings per share were down from 13.8p to 6.4p. After an extraordinary charge of £1.5 million, there was a loss attributable to shareholders of £533,000, compared with a £2.13 million surplus last time.

Despite the setback, Volox is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 6.4p a share and plans to expand by acquiring cable assembly companies. The shares fell 3p to 250p.

Peter Frost, the chairman, said the company was well-placed to pursue "a policy of strategic re-direction" after the disposal of the accessories division in the first half, which eliminated net borrowings.

Turnover fell from £50.07 million to £41.01 million.

Casket leaps to £1.95m

By Gillian Bowditch

CASKET, the clothing and leisure group, is recovering after restructuring or disposing of its loss-making businesses. The group, where a new management team led by Joe Smith, the chief executive, has been installed, made pre-tax profits of £1.95 million in the six months to end-September compared with £27,000.

Turnover fell from £39.4 million to £35.4 million as a result of discontinued activities. Earnings per share were 0.86p (0.08p loss) and the interim dividend is 0.15p. There was no interim dividend last year.

The clothing division increased sales but pressure on margins resulted in a reduction in operating profits. The leisure division benefited from increased sales of bicycles despite a decline in the British cycle market but Blue Box Toys saw profits and sales fall substantially. The group has agreed to sell its 70 per cent holding in Blue Box Toy Factory to the Hong Kong company which owns the rest.

UK helps Lesotho water project

By Ross Tiesman, Industrial Correspondent

ECGD, the government export credits agency, is to provide almost £50 million of insurance for British companies involved in the £600 million first phase of the Lesotho Highlands Water project in southern Africa.

The agency has played a leading role in financing the huge water supply and hydro-electric scheme, despite the passage through parliament of a bill to privatise part of its operations, the Insurance Services Group.

The ECGD will underwrite contracts won by Balfour Beatty, Kier International and Stirling International as members of consortia.

An ECGD-backed loan to finance the work will be provided by Hill Samuel, the merchant bank. The first phase of the Lesotho High-

lands Project involves constructing a dam 180 metres high on the Mafikeng river, creating a reservoir covering 35 square kilometres.

Water will be diverted to the south of the country, and into South Africa, through 70 kilometres of tunnels under the Maloti mountains. The project includes construction of a power station.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said the scheme, "one of the largest civil engineering undertakings in the world", would enable Lesotho to meet its own water needs, export a surplus to South Africa, and become self-sufficient in electricity.

Financing agreements for phase one, co-ordinated by British Overseas Investments, were signed in London.

Earnings per share up 27%

NINE MONTHS RESULTS

£1 = \$1.77 for 1991 (\$1.78 for 1990)

Nine months to September (unaudited)

1990

1991

Change

CONTINUING GROUP TURNOVER
(Including Farmers' Exchanges)

£13,565m

£14,250m

+5%

PRE-TAX PROFIT

£596m

£662m

+11%

EARNINGS PER SHARE

13.9p

17.7p

+27%

- Earnings per share up 27 per cent on 1990's depressed level.
- Strong performance in tobacco, with trading profit of £702 million. Exports up 25 per cent, with growth in demand for both US and UK international brands.
- Financial services trading profit of £101 million, despite £284 million loss at Eagle Star.
- Chairman Sir Patrick Sheehy reiterated, "Looking at B.A.T Industries as a whole, we are confident of the underlying business strengths of the Group. The Board remains as determined as ever to reward our shareholders with dividend increases in excess of the rate of inflation."



B.A.T INDUSTRIES

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20 1991

Employers and unions have a successful conclusion of the Maastricht summit as a common aim

ICI chief urges Europe to settle differences

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Denys Henderson, the chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, has weighed into the war of words before the European summit conference in Maastricht, Holland, with a call for governments to settle their differences.

Only if a workable agreement was reached could we "grasp the opportunities of a much wider Europe," he said.

The ICI chairman's comments, to a London conference yesterday on the future of the chemical industry, signal the concerns of businessmen that progress towards economic integration will be hampered if the Maastricht summit next month fails to produce an accord.

Recent events had presented Europe with an "unparalleled opportunity" to

make its continent an even more important global trading block, Sir Denys said. The prizes could be enviable economic growth prospects, and much-improved political stability. But they could be jeopardised by pursuit of a "Fortress Europe" policy.

"This must not be allowed to happen because it is imperative that Europe should think and act globally," he said. He

urged Europe's leaders to "strive mightily" to ensure the completion of the GATT round of talks on removing trade barriers.

"Without that, there are risks for an inward-looking Europe," Sir Denys said. "Opportunities will be missed, trade conflicts may arise. That is the very last thing we need today, as we struggle to breathe life into a

very frail world economy." The ICI chairman set out his concerns that political events had distracted attention from the "great deal" which remained to be done to achieve an integrated European market.

The distractions were all the more alarming because the single market would be the cornerstone of integration upon which European competitiveness could be built in world markets.

Sir Denys issued a blunt warning to regulators against excessive emphasis on European competition issues when examining the impacts of industrial restructuring. Due weight must be given to the ability of European companies to operate effectively worldwide, he said.

The issue of Community competition law is especially acute in the chemical industry, ICI is among 15 chemical companies which have been fined tens of millions of pounds by the Community for operating cartels in products including soda ash, polypropylene, polyvinylchloride and low density polyethylene.

Sir Denys gave a warning that further restructuring was necessary, and should be allowed to go ahead. Truly global competition might require joint ventures, technical co-operation, product swaps and new marketing arrangements, he said.

"Restructuring is already underway, not just in Europe, but worldwide, and we must not be left behind," he said.



Sir Denys: "grasp opportunities for a wider Europe"

Airbus seeks partners in Japan

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AIRBUS Industrie, the European consortium in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, is seeking development partners for the next generation of long range jumbo jets in Japan.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the Japanese plane maker, confirmed reports in Tokyo that it had been asked by Airbus whether it would be interested in working on the Super Airbus. Mitsubishi says it would consider the proposal but has had no details.

Mitsubishi and other Japanese aerospace companies already have links with Boeing, the market leader in jet aircraft manufacture. The Japanese aircraft industry, however, is restless and disappointed that Boeing did not give it a larger share of the development of the 777 jet.

The Euro-Japanese discussions are taking place in competition with the trend for stronger links between the American aircraft industry and the Far East.

McDonnell Douglas is talking to Taiwan Aerospace Corporation about investing \$2 billion for a 40 per cent stake in its commercial aircraft operations to help fund the MD-12. The move could be the start of a larger American-Far Eastern consortium, but the talks have hit some political opposition in America. The link has been described as giving away American jobs and technology.

Willis seeks EC work accord



Willis: majority call

NORMAN Willis, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, yesterday called on the government to support a European social charter based upon "voluntary" agreements between unions and employers.

Mr Willis said it would be "absurd" for the government to reject majority voting on social matters at the Maastricht summit if that opened the way to a voluntary accord. "Failure to create a genuine social dimension would not only run counter to the specific pledges of the great majority of governments, it would create cynicism and disillusionment among European unions," he said.

His speech, to industrialists in Brussels, highlighted moves by unions to defuse objections to a Community-wide framework of employment rights.

As president of the European TUC, Mr Willis helped mastermind a joint call by the ETUC and Unice, the Euro-

pean employers' organisation, for firms and employees to be allowed to reach voluntary agreements on social matters.

The Confederation of British Industry, which belongs to Unice, supports the harmonisation of health and safety legislation, but believes other employment terms should be negotiated at the workplace.

The latest draft of the treaty drawn up by the Netherlands for the Maastricht summit next month would allow nine months for employers and unions to seek voluntary agreements before any proposed social legislation, Mr Willis said. It would also allow implementation of directives by members via collective agreements rather than law.

The idea of signing such an open-ended commitment, albeit one that allows a bigger measure of subsidiarity, is unlikely to appeal to the prime minister, Michael Howard, employment secretary, is a vociferous critic of moves

towards EC-wide employment laws.

It is also very difficult to see how such agreements could be made to work. However, Mr Willis and his advisers at the TUC are confident voluntary accords provide a workable and more responsive way to achieve harmonisation of employment conditions.

Mr Willis insisted that harmonisation of working practices was both desirable and inevitable. "The ever-closer integration of our economies, with more and more cross-border activity, requires adaptation of industrial relations structures to the new situation," he said.

Trade unions would make their goal to "level up" pay levels across the Community. However, the TUC general secretary explicitly linked harmonisation of pay and conditions to convergence of European economies.

Comment, page 29

Thorn to purchase the remainder of Chrysalis Records

By MARTIN WALLER

THORN EMI, the former electrical goods business that is increasingly "focused" on music and rentals, has bought the outstanding interest in Chrysalis Records from Chrysalis Group, its former joint venture partner.

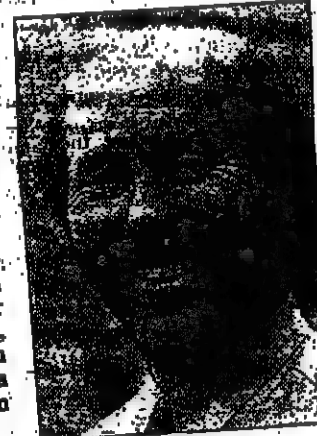
Thorn also announced pre-tax profits of £94.9 million in the six months to September 30, down from £96.2 million, and an unchanged interim dividend of 9p. It took a gloomy view of short-term prospects.

Colin Southgate, chairman, said the group seemed to be at the bottom of the recession in many markets but consumer confidence was still fragile. "We do not expect to see an upturn in the economy in the short term and think that improvement, when it comes, will be slow," he said.

The group will pay \$30 million for the half of Chrysalis Records it does not already own, and assume \$25 million of debts. It will also make further payments, not expected to exceed \$5 million, based on the company's performance over the next five years.

Mr Southgate said the latest deal and the initial joint venture agreement in 1989 meant the group was buying \$175 million of turnover for \$150 million. The amalgamation of Thorn's and Chrysalis's American management teams would save between \$9 million and \$10 million a year.

Chris Wright, Chrysalis Group chairman, will con-



Wright: \$2 million fee

time as non-executive chairman of Chrysalis Records for two years, for which his group will receive fees of \$2 million.

Management accounts for the latest financial year from Chrysalis Records indicated no improvement since losses for the first half were reported.

Mr Southgate said he would like "at some stage or other" to merge EMI's music business with Virgin Records, but no talks were taking place at the moment.

Thorn has an interest of nearly 60 per cent in Thames Television, the London week-day independent television contractor. Mr Southgate said Thames was pushing ahead with plans to become an independent production house once its franchise ran out. It was in talks with various parties, including the BBC, Channel 4 and BSkyB, about forthcoming programmes.

Tempos, page 28

Defeated TVS in financing accord

TVS Entertainment, the defeated independent television contractor for the South of England, has reached agreement with its bankers over a refinancing that will enable broadcasts to continue to the end of the franchise period in 13 months' time (Martin Waller writes).

The company is also talking with Meridian Broadcasting, the successful bidder for the franchise, over asset sales that might safeguard some jobs.

Initial financing plans, including the raising of new equity, were considered by the board when the company lost the franchise in October. British banks could have refused to agree fresh funds; and TVS's \$100 million of American debt, incurred with the 1988 purchase of MTM, the independent production company, could also have threatened its survival.

The company says British facilities are agreed, and existing American borrowings will stay in place. The company is talking to Meridian about "various transitional arrangements, including the employment opportunities available for its employees". The talks cover possible asset sales to Meridian, which will need its own broadcasting facilities when it takes over the franchise.

TVS will cut costs "to the lowest level consistent with maintaining programming commitments". Any further production will centre on existing drama series, such as the Ruth Rendell detective mysteries, and the company will look at link-ups with independent TV production companies.



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Minister says Israel's growth is due to underlying vitality

By COLIN NARBROUGH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE 6 per cent growth that Israel expects this year results from the underlying vitality of the economy, not the influx of the Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union, Yizhak Moda'i, the Israeli finance minister, said.

Addressing the British-Israel chamber of commerce in London, he said the Soviet Jews had so far made a "minimal" contribution to economic growth, while increasing the state's liabilities.

The Israeli government expects a million Soviet Jews to arrive by mid-decade. Although dismissive of the immediate economic impact of the wave of immigrants, Mr Moda'i said the Soviet Jews were a "very promising group".

A quarter of them had received technical training, an unprecedented high propor-



Moda'i: historic chance

tion for an immigrant group. These were the "cream" of the Soviet workforce, representing billions of dollars of investment by the Soviet government.

Mr Moda'i, a strong advocate of privatisation and structural reform, said the immigrants represented an historic chance for the Israeli economy. The Soviet im-

migrants could be directed at

the private sector, thus reducing the proportion of public-sector jobs in the economy.

Mr Moda'i outlined several advantages for potential investors in Israel. During his earlier stint as finance minister, the country had brought inflation back under control in 14 months, and was maintaining the gains. Recent changes in Israel's foreign exchange controls were beginning to transform the shekel into a strong, free currency.

The economy's 1991 growth rate, although lower than the government forecast last year because of the impact of the Gulf war, was still much higher than growth rates in leading industrialised economies.

Commenting on the \$10 billion of loan guarantees Israel is seeking from a seemingly reluctant Washington, Mr Moda'i said jokingly that President Bush "did not know yet that he'll grant it".

Fast footwork by dealers restricts damage to prices

Winner of Chrysalis: Colin Southgate yesterday

LOWEST AVAILABLE PRICES IN

1017

Barclays	505p (-16p)
Lloyds	384p (-10p)
Midland	222p (-11p)
Allied-Lyons ..	591p (-11p)
Banks	946p (-14p)
Grand Met ..	826p (-13p)
Guinness	505p (-12p)
RMC Group	515p (-17p)
Steeltek	285p (-43p)
Clipping Prices	Page 3

RIGHT ISSUES	
Anglo Eastern Plant N/P (33)	6
Iwara Chemicals 10p N/P (128)	15 1/2
Barr Thornton Sp N/P (10)	4
De La Rue N/P (350)	98 5
Esso Motor 40p N/P (100)	15 -3
Esso (Robert H) 1p N/P (10)	1 1/2
Molybdenum N/P	16
Motco Ofcials 10p N/P (215)	2
PCT Group 10p N/P (125)	10
SELECT 1p N/P (17)	3

Turnover was about 380 million shares compared with 285 million on Monday.

a share at September 30 (140 a year earlier). Pre-tax revenue slipped from £248,000 to £198,000 in the half-year to end-September, reducing the earnings per share from 1.43p to 1.12p. The trust does not pay an interim dividend.

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

RECENT ISSUES

[illegible]

TOKYO

Tokyo — Prices surrendered early gains and ended easier. The Nikkei index was down 73.26 points, or 0.31 per cent to 23,326.86. Investors retreated after the morning's technical recovery proved to be weaker than expected and futures-linked selling knocked prices lower.

The market was bereft of incentives and worried about further weakness on Wall Street. The Nikkei jumped 242.29 points above Monday's close in the first 15 minutes of trading, pleased that New York rebounded 30 points, or 0.65 per cent, after

WALL STREET

[illegible]

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before easing to close 63.02 up at 4,261.23. The broader-based Hong Kong Index rose 40.60 to 2,782.15. (Reuters)

You are urged to pay any such notes into your bank account or to exchange them for current notes no later than 29 November. After that date they can be exchanged only at the Bank of England

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Pay Sec App	18.89	20.29	+ 0.21	---	* Annual reported as CAR (Consumer * Medium Return: 1 Ex dividend; 2 Middle price: ... No significant data.
Sec Opp	10.27	20.29	---	2.30	
General Equip	10.27	20.29	---	---	
Global Tech	81.22	87.32	+ 0.52	---	

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 91.1
 (day's range 91.1-91.3)

Min Range for Now 10'	Range	Chase	1 month	3 months
Amsterdam	3.2408-3.2507	3.2418-3.2454	11-10p	20-14p
Brussels	1.6135-1.6241	1.6145-1.6181	11-10p	20-14p
Copenhagen	11.1179-11.2179	11.1194-11.1836	9-10p	19-10p
Dublin	1.0740-1.0800	1.0740-1.0750	9-10p	19-10p
Frankfurt	2.1872-2.1881	2.1871-2.1872	9-10p	19-10p
Lisbon	250.50-252.76	250.58-251.77	26-32cds	91-104de
Madrid	181.59-182.43	181.59-182.23	26-32cds	91-104de

Montreal	2.0202-2.0230	4.1658-4.1748	1-3/8	0.98-0.98
New York	1.7910-1.7980	1.7970-1.7980	0.90-0.90	2.44-2.52
Oslo	11.2798-11.3290	11.2798-11.3040	1-1/2	1-1/2
Paris	9.9204-10.3616	9.9204-10.3616	1-1/2	1-1/2
Stockholm	10.4833-10.5441	10.4833-10.5075	1-1/2	1-1/2
Tokyo	231.67-233.20	232.89-233.20	1-1/2	1-1/2
Zurich	2.3240-2.3304	2.3240-2.3272	1-1/2	1-1/2
Zurich	2.3461-2.3599	2.3478-2.3599	1-1/2	1-1/2
Source: Ecol			Provision - p.c.	Discount - p.c.

Argentina austral*	1772.1-17738.9	Australia	12674.1-12682
Australia dollar	2.2686-2.2715	Austria	11.31-11.33
Bahian dollar	0.87-0.8795	Belgium	33.10-33.14
Brazil cruzeiro*	1333.71-1335.00	Canada	1.1261-1.1268
Cyprus pound	0.805-0.815	Denmark	2.6340-2.6480
Ireland new pence		France	4.8470-5.2992
Green drachma	326.40-329.60	Germany	1.868-1.8675
Hong Kong dollar	13.8812-13.8909	Hong Kong	7.7549-7.7539
Indian rupee	66.00-66.40	India	1.6575-1.6590
Kuwait dirham KD	0.5000-0.5000		

Malaysia ringgit	4.8920-4.9002	Japan yen	121.52-121.53
Mexico peso	54.90-55.00	Malaysia	3.7325-3.7330
New Zealand dollar	1.1597-1.1612	Norway	2.7330-2.7330
Saudi Arabia riyal	2.6767-2.6773	Norwegian	1.8190-1.8110
Singapore dollar	0.9477-0.9489	Poland	6.330-6.310
S 3 Africa rand (cont)	5.9063-5.9081	Portugal	200.00-160.00
S 3 Africa rand (fms)	5.9063-5.9081	Singapore	1.2435-1.2660
U A E dirham	2.5373-2.56175	Spain	164.15-1.150
Barings Bank GTS * Lagos Bank		Sweden	5.8650-5.8700
		Switzerland	1.4304-1.4255

Prime Bank Clearing Banks 10%	Finance Rate 10%			
Discount Market 1 Lease Charge 10%		Low 9	Week Bond: 10%	
Treasury Bills (Dist-Buy) 2 mth 10% 3 mth 10 1/2		Set: 2 mth 10 1/2	3 mth 12 1/2	9 1/2
1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dist-Buy)	10 1/4-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 3/4	10 3/4-10 7/8	9 1/4-9 1/2
Stocking Money Rates:	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 3/4	10 3/4-10 7/8
Interbank:	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/4-10 1/2	10 1/2-10 3/4	10 3/4-10 7/8

Overnight open 10% to 15% close 10% to 15%					
Local Authority Dept:	10% ₁₀	n/a	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀
Starling CDE	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀
Dollar City	4.50-4.75	5.10-5.05	5.00-4.95	5.00-4.95	5.10-5.05
Building Society CDE	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀	10% ₁₀

BOG's Fixed Rate Starling Report Finance, Makeany day Oct 31, 1991 / Agreed rates Nov 26, 1991 to Dec 24, 1991 Scheme I: 11.68%, Schemes II & III: 11.68%
 Reference (B/C) 1.1.1991 Oct 31

	3 day	1 week	3 month	6 month	Cash
Germany	4 1/2-5	4-4 1/2	5 1/2-6 1/2	5 1/2-6 1/2	4-4 1/2
Denmark	9-9 1/2	9-9 1/2	9-9 1/2	9-9 1/2	9-9 1/2
Deutschschaff	9-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9-9 1/2
French France	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9 1/2-9 1/2	9-9 1/2
Swiss France	7-7 1/2	7-7 1/2	5-7 1/2	5-7 1/2	7-7 1/2
Yen	6-6 1/2	6-6 1/2	6-6 1/2	6-6 1/2	6-6 1/2
Scrub					

Bullion: Open \$360.20-360.60 Low \$359.75-360.25 **Coin:** \$363.70-363.60 **High:** \$363.10-363.60
Kingsize: \$362.75-363.75 **\$200.75-201.75**
Sovereigns: Old \$83.75-86.75 **\$47.50-48.50** **New:** \$85.50-86.50 **\$47.25-48.25**
Platinum: \$365.50 **\$204.10** **Silver:** \$4.11 **\$2.285** **Palladium:** \$84.90 **\$47.40**

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Celtic Shot set for Haydock encore

THOSE who fancy either Party Politics or Docklands Express to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday will be looking to Celtic Shot to give their hope a boost today by winning the Edward Hamner Memorial Chase at Haydock Park for the second season in succession.

When he won the event last year, Celtic Shot gave Party Politics 16lb and a two-length beating, having earlier won the Charlie Hall Chase at Wetherby.

This autumn, Celtic Shot has been given the same programme by his Lambourn-based trainer Charlie Brooks. When he was successful on his seasonal debut at Wetherby, also for the second time, he gave Docklands Express 8lb and a two-and-a-half lengths beating.

As Docklands Express has been set to give 9lb to Party Politics in the Hennessy, much will depend on the behaviour of the weather between now and Saturday.

While more rain and a possible weight rise will dismay the Docklands Express camp, the softer the ground becomes the happier Nick Gaselee, the trainer of Party Politics, will be.

As far as Celtic Shot is

concerned, he should carry too many guns for Bonanza Boy today, having beaten him by 17 lengths on the corresponding occasion last year, albeit on 11lb better terms.

Having beaten the useful Green Heart by 15 lengths over today's course and distance a week ago, Sure Metal, from Donald McCain's nearby stable, should be a 3lb penalty in the Wargrave Handicap Chase, while the Earlestown Novices' Chase can go to Martin Pipe's recent Wolverhampton winner Catch The Cross.

Travels, who created a good impression when winning his bumper at Kempton last season, returns there to contest the Fairview New Homes Novices' Hurdle. He should have to much pace for the former steeplechaser Laundryman.

With the weights for the Boxing Day Trial Chase rising by 16lb overnight, Viscars Landing now has a realistic chance of beating Man O' Magic and Foyle Fisherman following that promising first

run of the season behind Eastshaw at Wincanton.

Norman Conqueror, who made a good start to his chasing career at Wolverhampton, and Dante's View, who won his first race in this country by ten lengths after spending his formative years in Ireland, look the likely answers to the puzzles posed by the Premier Markets Novices' Chase and the Junior Novices' Hurdle respectively.

At Kelso, all eyes will be on Peter Beaumont's exciting six-year-old Jodami when he begins his chasing career by tackling the Edinburgh Woolen Mills Reg Tweedie Novices' Chase.

Having won five of his six races over hurdles last season, Jodami clearly has the ability to cope with Break The Chain.

However, his stable companion Westwell Boy is likely to be followed in the Scottish Sports Aid Foundation Novices' Hurdle by Gale Again, who is my nap.

Until he fell at the last hurdle at Wetherby last time out, Gale Again, who had won his previous race impressively at Market Rasen, looked ready to take Westwell Boy at any time his jockey chose. Today's race should be his consolation prize.



The champion hurdler Celtic Shot attempts a repeat victory in the Edward Hamner Chase

Sparkling Flame's return delayed following setback

SPARKLING Flame, last season's top staying novice chaser, has suffered a minor setback and misses his scheduled reappearance at Kempton Park today.

Nicky Henderson's seven-year-old was found to be lame yesterday morning and was immediately pulled out of the Boxing Day Trial Chase. He is still in the Hennessy Gold Cup on Saturday, but his trainer said it would be "a miracle" if he recovered in time to run at Newbury.

"I don't think it is very serious but he was lame when we checked him this morning. I think it is something behind the saddle and it is probably very marginal. But he couldn't work this morning so he can't run," Henderson explained.

"I really don't think he will take long to get over it, probably three to four days, but it is more than a nuisance."

He'd never taken a lame step in his life until today.

Alternative targets for Sparkling Flame, who rounded off a near perfect 1990-91 campaign by beating Esha Ness eight lengths in the Mumm Club Novices' Chase at Liverpool, are the Rehearsal Chase or the Arlington Premier Series Chase qualifier at Chepstow a week on Saturday.

Henderson reported that the huge amount of rain that has fallen in the Lambourn area may not have helped the chances of Master Bob, due to run in the Hennessy.

"If the ground becomes soft we would have to seriously think again about running him. He would be doubtful in that case, but I have to speak to Newbury about the conditions," Henderson added.

However, his stable companion Remittance Man

will run at the track on Friday in the Arlington qualifier, provided the going is not heavy.

"I am pretty sure he will perform. He is in good form and we have got to start somewhere with him."

Hennessy betting activity yesterday centred on Jimmy Fitzgerald's Gold Options, whose odds tumbled to 10-1 with Ladbrokes. He was available at 25-1 at the start of the day.

William Hill also reported heavy backing for Gold Options and have also cut the Irish horse Rawhide from 14-1 to 10-1 and Master Bob from 16-1 to 12-1, including one bet of £20,000 to £1,200.

Hill's latest betting is 4-1 Docklands Express, 11-2 Arctic Call (from 5-1), 8-1 Party Politics, 10-1 Garrison Savannah, Gold Options, Rawhide, 14-1 Boracova, 16-1 others.

Maguire deputises in style

WHEN leading northern jockey Mark Dwyer decided to give up his ride on Island Jettster at Wetherby yesterday, his trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald asked Adrian Maguire to step into the breach.

Toby Balding's promising conditional rider did not waste the opportunity, producing an accomplished performance on Island Jettster to foil the favourite in the Colonel Dick Warden Memorial Handicap Chase.

Maguire went on to complete a 44-1 double when

getting 8-1 chance Colorado Insight home in the T Kilroe Group Ltd Novices' Hurdle.

The performance of the winner was viewed with interest by the stewards.

She was showing improved form compared with her previous effort when fifth at Sedgefield last month.

Because no video of that race was available, the stewards decided to refer the matter to the Jockey Club stewards at Portman Square.

Maguire very nearly worked the oracle on outsider Precious Memories in the W A

Stephenson Novices' Chase.

When Concert Paper crashed at the fourth last, the 33-1 chance was left in a clear lead. But the advantage was gradually whittled away by chasing debutant Otterburn House, who forged clear on the run-in.

This winner, initiating a double for Fitzgerald, was ridden by jockey Dwyer. However, the Irishman still suffering from the effects of a fall at Catterick on Saturday, gave up his ride on Wake Up in the opening race as well as Island Jettster.

MANDARIN
1.15 Enfant Du Paradis.
1.45 Sure Metal.
2.15 Celtic Shot.
2.45 Cheertful Times.
3.15 Catch The Cross.
3.45 Dual Image.

THUNDERER
1.15 Enfant Du Paradis.
1.45 Sure Metal.
2.15 Celtic Shot.
2.45 Cheertful Times.
3.15 Catch The Cross.
3.45 Mugoni Beach.

GOING: GOOD

1.15 NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS POLICE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: 21.77s; 2m) (5 runners)

1 LITTLE CONKER 8 (A. Smith) A. Smith 10-10
2 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
4 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
5 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Enfant Du Paradis, 10-30 Porcupine, 4-1 Timothy's Quay, 5-1 Elegant Approach.

1990: CORNWALL PRINCE 10-3 D Murphy (2-1) N. Callaghan 13 ran.

FORM FOCUS

LITTLE CONKER 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ENFANT DU PARADIS 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ELEGANT APPROACH 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, TIMOTHY'S QUAY 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, PORCUPINE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good.

1.45 WARGRAVE HANDICAP CHASE (3-Y-O: 21.77s; 2m) (5 runners)

1 FUSILLADE 10 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
2 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
4 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
5 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 FUSILLADE, 10-30 Porcupine, 4-1 Timothy's Quay, 5-1 Elegant Approach.

1990: CORNWALL PRINCE 10-3 D Murphy (2-1) N. Callaghan 13 ran.

FORM FOCUS

FUSILLADE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, PORCUPINE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, TIMOTHY'S QUAY 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ELEGANT APPROACH 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ENFANT DU PARADIS 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good.

2.15 EDWARD HAMNER MEMORIAL CHASE (Limited handicap: £10,025; 2m) (5 runners)

1 CELTIC SHOT 18 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
2 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
4 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
5 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Celtic Shot, 10-30 Porcupine, 4-1 Timothy's Quay, 5-1 Elegant Approach.

1990: CORNWALL PRINCE 10-3 D Murphy (2-1) N. Callaghan 13 ran.

FORM FOCUS

CELTIC SHOT 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, PORCUPINE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, TIMOTHY'S QUAY 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ELEGANT APPROACH 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ENFANT DU PARADIS 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good.

3.15 EARLESTOWN NOVICES CHASE (3-Y-O: 21.77s; 2m) (5 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10
5 LITTLE CONKER 8 (A. Smith) A. Smith 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis, 10-10 Little Conker.

1990: CORNWALL PRINCE 10-3 D Murphy (2-1) N. Callaghan 13 ran.

FORM FOCUS

PORCUPINE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, TIMOTHY'S QUAY 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ELEGANT APPROACH 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ENFANT DU PARADIS 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, LITTLE CONKER 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good.

2.30 FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES NOVICES HURDLE (22,804; 2m) (16 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10
5 LITTLE CONKER 8 (A. Smith) A. Smith 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis, 10-10 Little Conker.

1990: CORNWALL PRINCE 10-3 D Murphy (2-1) N. Callaghan 13 ran.

FORM FOCUS

PORCUPINE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, TIMOTHY'S QUAY 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ELEGANT APPROACH 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ENFANT DU PARADIS 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, LITTLE CONKER 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good.

1.00 STAINES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (22,215; 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis.

1990: CORNWALL PRINCE 10-3 D Murphy (2-1) N. Callaghan 13 ran.

FORM FOCUS

PORCUPINE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, TIMOTHY'S QUAY 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ELEGANT APPROACH 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ENFANT DU PARADIS 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good.

1.30 WIMBLEDON HURDLE (22,804; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10
5 LITTLE CONKER 8 (A. Smith) A. Smith 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis, 10-10 Little Conker.

1990: CORNWALL PRINCE 10-3 D Murphy (2-1) N. Callaghan 13 ran.

FORM FOCUS

PORCUPINE 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, TIMOTHY'S QUAY 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ELEGANT APPROACH 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, ENFANT DU PARADIS 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good, LITTLE CONKER 22 11lb of 18 in last season in a novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good), good.

2.00 PREMIER MARKETS NOVICES CHASE (23,057; 2m 4f) (14 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10
5 LITTLE CONKER 8 (A. Smith) A. Smith 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis, 10-10 Little Conker.

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3.00 BOXING DAY TRIAL CHASE (Limited Handicap: 23,051; 3m) (4 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis.

2.45 MUMM CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP HURDLE (22,611; 2m) (4 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis.

3.15 EARLESTOWN NOVICES CHASE (3-Y-O: 21.77s; 2m) (5 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10
5 LITTLE CONKER 8 (A. Smith) A. Smith 10-10

BETTING: 5-4 Porcupine, 10-30 Timothy's Quay, 4-1 Elegant Approach, 5-1 Enfant Du Paradis, 10-10 Little Conker.

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3.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,285; 2m) (12 runners)

1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
2 TIMOTHY'S QUAY 14 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
3 ELEGANT APPROACH 11 (D. Leach) W. Hinchey 10-10
4 ENFANT DU PARADIS 15 (P. Taylor) P. Taylor 10-10
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1 508 PORCUPINE 12 (W. Jones) R. Hinchey 10-10
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Andrew will need to be diplomatic in French posting

New date affects England

Campese ready to change his plans


Oxford looks outward

Oxford looks outward

Fourth-round draw will stretch Slough

Balancing act: McRae, in practice near Banbury for the Lombard, appreciates the nerve-racking effect of pressure when at the top

One slip could cost Sainz his title



McRae: envy of many

McRae: envy of many

YACHTING

Blake launches race plan

OVERSEAS CRICKET

Jones is in range of a rarely achieved goal

Navratilova, who exploited McNeil's lack of consistency, is still unhappy at being unable to take part in the Barcelona Olympic Games.

HOCKEY

Fourth-round draw will stretch Slough

FOURTH-ROUND DRAW: Bournemouth v Ipswich; Bromley v Slough; Chelmsford v Teddington; East Grinstead v High Wycombe; Gore Court v Wimbledown; Hemstead and Westminster v Surbiton; Marlston Magnolia v Doncaster; Havant v Blackwich; Hounslow v Beeston; Indian Gymkhana v Warrington; Marlow v Richmond; Old Loughtonians v Neston; Reading v Southgate; St Albans v Welton; Trojans v Stourport; Weyfield or back v Cannock.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Monarchs pay for their success



Graf: training change

TENNIS

Graf over the first hurdle on her new journey

FROM BARRY WOOD
IN NEW YORK

In truth the score flatters, borne out by the fact that Martina Navratilova took less time to overcome Lori McNeil, 6-4, 7-5. Martinez has attained her ranking largely by playing weaker

She also suggested her relationship with Slozil had become just a little strained. "It is very tough to be together

Navratilova, who exploited McNeil's lack of consistency, is still unhappy at being unable to take part in the Barcelona Olympic Games.

□ The International Tennis Federation yesterday announced the women's Federation Cup will be held in Frankfurt in 1997 and 1998.



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